



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S. Seen Trying To Reinstall Hashemite Throne in Iraq

NC0109135595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1310 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 1 Sep (MENA)—Citing informed sources in Iran, the weekly magazine AL-ISTIQLAL, organ of the Islamic Jihad Movement, says King Husayn of Jordan has sent a secret letter to Iranian leaders promising them that he will respect the border agreement signed in Algiers between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the former shah of Iran. He also told the Iranian leaders that they should not worry about possible changes in regional geopolitics.

The magazine says U.S. envoys recently toured the Gulf region to persuade the Saudi and Kuwaiti leaderships to accept the return of the Hashemite throne to Iraq.

Observers believe current events in the Middle East are a U.S.-Israeli attempt to rearrange the regional picture. The Hashemite throne plays a key role in these moves.

The magazine says Ayatollah Jannati, a prominent Iranian leader, rejected the proposed U.S. plan. In a Friday sermon in Tehran last week he said the current plans against Iraq are dangerous and are part of demonic U.S. schemes that Iran will abort by force.

Islamic Affairs

Brotherhood Official Views Elections, Power

NC3108152095 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
23 Aug 95 p 13

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, Muslim Brotherhood deputy general guide, by Muhammad Munir; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Munir] The Muslim Brothers are currently being subjected to a security campaign that has netted 250 members including some senior ones. In your view and the Brotherhood's view, what is the motive behind the campaign?

[Mashhur] The Muslim Brotherhood is nearly 70 years old. It has lived through several political eras. Now in Mubarak's era we are still around and are working through official channels: the professional associations, the People's Assembly, student unions, and so on. There were no problems until very recently, specifically one year ago when a campaign started against the professional associations and their elections. Law number 100 was passed to regulate the associations. Since the beginning of 1995, when preparations began for the People's Assembly elections, we have witnessed a more intense

campaign by the government and by government newspapers against the Muslim Brotherhood. This escalated to the point of arresting Brotherhood members and making indiscriminate accusations against them. I believe the aim is to distort the Muslim Brotherhood's image, cast doubts on its role, and encourage public dislike for it so that no Muslim Brothers will be elected to the new People's Assembly. Anyhow, since the next elections are to be contested by individual candidates and not by party tickets, each person has the right to run and use the slogan that he believes is good for the country. This is a right of which no one must be deprived. For this reason the Muslim Brothers will contest the elections. Any Muslim Brother who wishes can run. The authorities have been watching the Brotherhood's successes in the professional associations elections—a not inconsiderable achievement—and for this reason they are afraid that if we contest the People's Assembly elections, we will win enough votes to affect the government. The accusations they are leveling at the detained Muslim Brothers are pure fabrications. The government is doing this to some important Muslim Brothers, some of whom were formerly People's Assembly members, in order to diminish their influence in the next People's Assembly elections.

[Munir] What percentage do you expect the Muslim Brothers to get if the elections are 100 percent honest and the government does not interfere?

[Mashhur] We have never experienced elections that were 100 percent honest. Well, perhaps only in the professional associations elections. The government alleged that the professional associations elections were held by a well-organized minority against a silent majority and for this reason they came up with Law 100. Yet even after this law was passed, the Muslim Brothers won some local professional association elections. In the People's Assembly elections we do not plan to contest all the constituencies because we do not want to make enemies among some important families who are fielding candidates. We will choose constituencies where our candidates are popular. Even if we assume that the elections are 100 percent honest, I don't believe we will get a percentage that threatens the government. If we get a third of the votes, that will be very good.

[Munir] The Muslim Brothers contested the last election on a coalition ticket? Will this happen again?

[Mashhur] In previous elections no individual candidates were allowed. This time it is not necessary for us to join a ticket with another party. It is true that we still have an alliance with the Labor Party but this will take the form of coordination. For example we will not run against each other in the same constituency.

[Munir] Will there not be a joint platform?

[Mashhur] They use the slogan "Islam is the solution." We use the same slogan. Nevertheless they have their own particular principles and their own political party. The same applies to us.

[Munir] Are there distinct differences between the platforms of the two parties?

[Mashhur] When we set up a coalition with them, it was based on mutual issues such as liberties, shari'ah, et cetera. We still agree with them on these issues. However, they have their own political positions on the other political groups and on foreign affairs. The same applies to us. What exists between us is not a merger but coordination.

[Munir] On the same level, do you have some measure of coordination with other political parties, such as the Wafd or the National Democratic Party?

[Mashhur] So far there has been no coordination between us and the Wafd. Nevertheless, in some constituencies where there are important wafdist candidates, we will not field a Muslim Brotherhood candidate. We don't want to win anyone's enmity. [passage omitted]

[Munir] What are the Muslim Brothers' relations with the ruling regime in Sudan?

[Mashhur] The Muslim Brotherhood movement entered Sudan in the 1930's, but differences have broken out between al-Turabi and the Muslim Brothers. These differences are tantamount to a split. There is another group that works under the name of the Muslim Brothers, while al-Turabi has established the National [Islamic] Front. He has not called this front the Muslim Brotherhood. There are no organizational links or agreements between us and this front.

[Munir] Is the regime of the National Islamic Front in Sudan a model of Islamic rule?

[Mashhur] We do not consider this regime a model of Islamic rule, but they have their own interpretations. There might be obstacles to achieving correct Islam. Islam does not approve the principle of reaching power by a military coup. There should be an elected Shura Council. In Sudan the Shura Council is appointed. [passage omitted]

[Munir] It is being said that you are the official in charge of the hardline wing of the Muslim Brotherhood. This wing does not reject acts of violence but even encourages them.

[Mashhur] This is a groundless fabrication and a lie. God Almighty knows that I do not approve of violence because it is not a correct method. The correct method

is through a constitution, institutions, public opinion, wisdom, and good advice. Some say we have hawks and doves. This is not correct. We do not approve of violence. No Muslim Brotherhood member has taken part in any incident. We have issued statements rejecting violence. The advocates of violence blame us for this stand and accuse us of being cowardly and weak. But we do not listen to this talk. We follow the teachings of our teacher, al-Banna, who followed the teachings of the prophet. The prophet did not answer the torture to which he was subjected with violence. He could have sent someone to kill Abu-Jahl and Abu-Lahab. We adhere to this course. [passage omitted]

[Munir] What is the Muslim Brotherhood's stand on the multi-party system and democracy?

[Mashhur] Perhaps you have read our book on pluralism and women's rights. We do not reject pluralism. There must be freedom of opinion for the parties and the press. Every country must have a judiciary that decides if an expressed opinion is in the country's interest or not. [passage omitted]

[Munir] You have said you do not support a military coup. Former Muslim Brotherhood official 'Abdallah Abu-'Izzah (a Palestinian), in his book "The Islamic Movement in the Arab Countries," said that after 'Abd-al-Nasir's death and before al-Sadat came to power the Muslim Brothers discussed how to reach power. It was reported that they would reach power either through violence or political means.

[Mashhur] I did not read this book by 'Abdallah Abu-'Izzah. I do not know him and I have not met with him. He was the information official at the Muslim Brotherhood's executive bureau in Beirut. You are speaking about Lebanon or Palestine. Here in Egypt we have never thought of reaching power by force because this is inconsistent with our policy and course. I would like one piece of evidence showing that we want to reach power by force.

[Munir] How will you reach power?

[Mashhur] Through public opinion. We spread our call through wisdom and good advice. Islam is the solution because Islam is from God, unlike other earthly regimes. It is most appropriate for our society. When the public adopts our opinion, it will then produce a government. [passage omitted]

[Munir] Do the Muslim Brothers receive funding from abroad, especially from banks, like the al-Ta'awa [Piety] Bank in the Bahamas?

[Mashhur] We do not have any links with them and do not receive any funding from abroad, neither from gov-

ernments nor institutions. The al-Taqwa Bank accepts funds from depositors.

[Munir] Most of them are Muslim Brothers.

[Mashhur] This does not mean we force them to give us their money.

[Munir] Why don't they invest their funds in Egypt?

[Mashhur] There is no financial stability in Egypt. Capital is a coward. [passage omitted]

[Munir] How are your relations with Saudi Arabia?

[Mashhur] It is an Islamic state which is applying some aspects of the Islamic shari'ah. We do not have much objection to this. But after Iraq invaded Kuwait, Egyptian forces went to Saudi Arabia to defend it against any aggression from Iraq. When the Americans came and began an invasion of Iraq itself, we issued a statement calling for the withdrawal of the Egyptian forces because they went to defend and not to attack an Arab country. Saudi Arabia did not like our statement. We had a magazine called LIWA' ISLAMI, which was owned by Fatimah Hamzah. Saudi Arabia interfered and asked her to cut the magazine's links with us or else it would withdraw her citizenship and residence in Saudi Arabia.

They imagined that our objection to the presence of foreign forces meant we supported Saddam. But we were the first people to issue a statement denouncing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. As for relations with them, there is no tension and there are no relations. They do not need us and we do not need them.

[Munir] The same question we asked about Sudan: Do you believe that the application of Islamic shari'ah in Saudi Arabia is a model of Islamic rule?

[Mashhur] I have no details about how the shari'ah is applied in Saudi Arabia, but we hope it is applied. I cannot judge this because I do not have details.

[Munir] What is your stance on the Palestinian issue?

[Mashhur] The Palestinian issue is the issue of all Muslims. We must not approve the Zionist enemy's usurpation of land. Teacher al-Banna sent fedayeen in 1948. They played a positive role but international plotting aborted this jihad. Three states conspired and met with al-Nuqrashi in Fayid. They asked him to dissolve the Muslim Brotherhood to abort its struggle against the Zionists. Al-Nuqrashi complied. He arrested Muslim Brotherhood members, except teacher al-Banna, whose firearms license was withdrawn.

We do not recognize the Zionist enemy. We must not leave the Palestinian issue in the hands of some Palestinians and some Arab rulers. It is the issue of all

Muslims. The Muslims must liberate all of Palestine and not only the West Bank and Gaza.

The U.S. stance on Israel earns it the people's hostility. Although the United States deals with Arab rulers, it has lost the Arab people.

[Munir] Did brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] ask you to mediate between Hamas and him?

[Mashhur] He came here more than once. It was apparent that he was in one valley and we were in another one. We told him that our main concern is that we do not want an inter-Palestinian struggle to occur.

I believe the Jews want peace so that the Palestinian Authority will prevent Hamas and other organizations from carrying out attacks. A struggle will occur between the Palestinians.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Position on Hebron 'Unwavering'

JN0409144595 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian position on the city of Hebron is steady and unwavering. In a meeting with a popular delegation from the Hebron Governorate representing popular and national establishments, he added that Hebron is a redline that cannot be trespassed. He said that what is applied to the rest of the Palestinian cities should be applied to Hebron as well.

'Arafat's meeting with the Hebron delegation dealt with the latest developments of the Palestinian-Israeli talks on redeployment outside the city.

Mayor Rejects Foreign Observers for Redeployment

TA0309100595 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0900 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah says the Palestinians reject the idea of stationing international observers in his city as a way to solve the problem of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron. Mr. al-Natshah told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Hebron residents had had a bad experience with the international observers who were stationed in the city following the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre.

Hamas Leader Interviewed on Suicide Bombings*AU0109093795 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German
1 Sep 95 p 17*

[Interview with Hamas leader 'Imad al-Faluji by Wolfgang Zehrt; place and date not given: "The Fight Continues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zehrt] Does Hamas want to kill more Israeli civilians?

[Al-Faluji] The fight continues. The adherents of Hamas are increasing all the time, and they agree with our objective. 'Arafat has betrayed the Palestinians, he has failed. Photographs of the Jerusalem bombing are hanging on many walls, and many young Hamas adherents are prepared to go the same way; they want to die for the honor of their people.

[Zehrt] In other words the terrorist attacks on Israeli buses will not cease?

[Al-Faluji] Hamas cannot stop the fight before we have established our own state. After all, Israeli soldiers killed many hundreds of Palestinians during the Intifadah, so what is the difference? We will continue to fight with all our resources.

[Zehrt] After every attack, Gaza is sealed off and thousands of Palestinians are unable to get to their jobs in Israel. Are you not harming your own people?

[Al-Faluji] He who wants a Muslim state must be prepared to make sacrifices. Hamas is the organization of the masses, who understand that we must act this way if we want to be free. Sixty percent of the people in Gaza have no employment, the situation has never been so bad. 'Arafat has achieved nothing. A few officials are better off now, but in the refugee camps misery and poverty prevail. We go to the camps and help, that is why the people love our leaders.

[Zehrt] Is Hamas rejecting the peace process altogether?

[Al-Faluji] For years, Hamas has been explaining to Israel what it must do to attain security in this region, in other words withdraw its soldiers from Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. All the settlements must disappear from the face of the earth, and all our prisoners must be released. That could make life safer for the Israelis. But even then Israel will always remain a foreign body in the Muslim world.

[Zehrt] What kind of state do you want, then?

[Al-Faluji] A strong, Muslim state. But we are not against democracy. We hope we can establish a Muslim state by democratic means.

[Zehrt] Is it true that you are getting support from Iran?

[Al-Faluji] We are getting money from many countries. Iran's support is the most important because Iran understands our objectives best. But other Muslim countries are helping us as well.

[Zehrt] Hamas members were again arrested by the Palestinian police last weekend. Is the PLO now intent on finishing off Hamas?

[Al-Faluji] Hamas cannot be defeated, not in this way, and not by Palestinian forces. The people will not allow 'Arafat to destroy the only Muslim organization of the Palestinians. He is incapable of doing so in any case.

[Zehrt] Politically or militarily?

[Al-Faluji] Politically, 'Arafat would never survive the destruction of Hamas. A large majority of the population would oppose him, and many rich Arab countries would stop supporting him. Militarily, too, we have no worries. Many policemen are on our side.

Yasin Meets Activists, Advises End to Attacks*TA0309171395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1600 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The imprisoned Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, has advised his organization to stop its terrorist attacks. After years in an Israeli prison for security offenses, Shaykh Yasin was allowed to meet two Hamas leaders to discuss possible reconciliation between the Islamic fundamentalists and the Palestinian Authority [PA].

One of the two go-betweens, Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, told an Israel Radio reporter that the shaykh, who is still considered one of the most influential Hamas authorities, called for an end to the violence. The other intermediary, Israel's former ambassador to Cairo, Moshe Sason, was apparently instrumental in allowing the meeting to be held in prison.

Security sources point out, however, that any agreement with the PA must be ratified by the Hamas military wing, which has so far categorically refused to call off terrorist attacks on Israeli targets.

'Abd-al-Raziq on Yasin's Meeting With Hamas Men*TA0409111395 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Sep 95
p 2*

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Text] A month and a half ago, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the spiritual leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] who is imprisoned in Israel, met

two Hamas leaders from the Gaza Strip — Isma'il Haniyah and Khalid al-Hindi. Shaykh Yasin told the two that he is in favor of an agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He even sent a letter to Yasir 'Arafat in this spirit. The meeting was organized by Moshe Sason, political adviser to Police Minister Moshe Shahal, and Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, a senior Fatah activist and member of the negotiating committee on the release of the Palestinian prisoners, who also attended the meeting.

Speaking on the phone from Elat, 'Abd-al-Raziq told DAVAR that the Hamas leader clearly knows that any agreement with the PA would be conditioned on the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads', the military wing of Hamas, terminating terror attacks. Shaykh Yasin told his visitors that an agreement with the PA is an important matter and is essential for the best interests of the Palestinian people. 'Abd-al-Raziq was given the impression that Yasin is a realistic person who views the situation clearly and very logically.

[Torpstein] Some time ago, there were reports that PA-Hamas contacts stopped. Are such contacts being held today?

['Abd-al-Raziq] There have always been contacts. Sometimes they make progress; sometimes they get stuck. Hamas operations, as well as arrests by the PA, hold up matters. There are waves. The problem, however, is not the dialogue; we are always talking. The problem is that we have to be practical and sign an agreement. For this, both parties must have a good intention to reach a decision and sign an agreement. The ongoing events have a very negative impact on this.

[Torpstein] Will such a statement by Shaykh Yasin indeed encourage the Hamas activists to sign an agreement?

['Abd-al-Raziq] When the Hamas spiritual leader calls for an agreement, he is giving it some serious support. Such an agreement will change the situation and start a new situation from which both the Israelis and the Palestinians would benefit.

[Torpstein] The conversation with Yasin took place some 45 days ago. Why has nothing happened so far?

['Abd-al-Raziq] It had a positive effect on the contacts with Hamas, but the terror acts and subsequent arrests disrupted them.

[Torpstein] Were direct contacts held with 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam members?

['Abd-al-Raziq] I do not know. We must hold contacts with Hamas only, and not with any other body. An

agreement with Hamas means an agreement with all the elements that it comprises.

[Torpstein] They say that the al-Qassam squads do not heed Hamas' political leadership, which may be interested in an agreement.

['Abd-al-Raziq] I do not believe this. If we reach an agreement, they would have to follow it as well.

[Torpstein] If the coming period is quiet, without terror acts and without arrests, will you be able to reach an agreement?

['Abd-al-Raziq] I hope so. The truth is that I do not see it happening anytime soon, but it is not impossible.

[Torpstein] Did Shaykh Yasin also refer to the establishment of a Hamas political party?

['Abd-al-Raziq] I did not hear him comment on this. I believe that if an agreement between the PA and Hamas is signed, Hamas would be able to establish a party that will receive a license from the PA. If no such agreement is made, splinters of the Islamic Movement may set up some party, but it would be better and healthier if we reached an agreement. [end 'Abd-al-Raziq]

A Hamas leader from Gaza who refused to be identified said yesterday that no PA-Hamas contacts have been held for the past several months. According to him, the main reason for this is the wave of arrests of Hamas activists by the PA. He said that Shaykh Yasin has always believed in and called for dialogue, but that only his release could promote the agreement. "If Shaykh Yasin is released," he said, "he could play a central role in stabilizing the region."

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 4 September publishes on page 2 a related report by Roni Shaqed, which adds that 'Abd-al-Raziq said yesterday: "We had to give the PA-Hamas dialogue a push, so we went to see Shaykh Yasin. He welcomed the forming agreement [with Israel], and the conclusion is that he is calling for the end of terrorism because the agreement clearly states that all acts of terror will stop."

[The report adds that "Israeli security sources said yesterday that they hope Hamas will take part in the elections, but on the same breath they added: Provided it does not win. According to the security sources, participating in the elections will restrain the organization and force it to stick to PA rules."]

Official: Hamas To Become Political Party

NC0209121895 Paris AFP in English
1143 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 2 (AFP) — A senior Hamas official said here Saturday [2

September] that the Palestinian Moslem fundamentalist group at the forefront of anti-Israeli attacks is headed toward becoming a political party.

"The issue is on the agenda but we are waiting before deciding to see the publication of a Palestinian law on the method of voting" for elections to a self-rule council, a senior official told AFP, asking to remain anonymous.

The law is expected to take about a month to draw up.

The official added that the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) was having problems holding the internal consultations needed because many of its leaders had been arrested by the Palestinian Authority.

The Arab daily AL-HAYAH reported Saturday that it had a copy of an internal document drawn up in Gaza which showed that Hamas had formed a committee in charge of creating party institutions.

The names of the committee members are being kept secret for security reasons, the London-based newspaper said.

"The preparatory committee is studying its options and other alternatives. At the right time, the party will materialize. But all the (group's) options are riddled with difficulties," it said.

AL-HAYAH said the self-rule authority, which cracks down on Hamas after each anti-Israeli attack, supported the group's transformation into a political party despite its rejection of the autonomy deal with Israel.

Former Hamas activists announced on August 13 the creation of a new Islamic party backing the self-rule authority.

Leaders in Territories in Favor

TA0409063095 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English*
0500 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories fear that if the Oslo B accord is implemented in the West Bank their position will be undermined. Therefore, they have said they need to quickly set up a political party. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says Hamas leadership outside the country, however, takes a much more stringent stand and says if a political party is established it will not take part in Palestinian elections and it will also continue to oppose deals made between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Hamas Uncovers 'Israeli Agent' in Ranks

TA0409091095 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Gaza, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] claims to have uncovered an Israeli agent in its ranks who planned to assassinate Palestinian figures in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that a leaflet published by Hamas states that the man, Walid Humayda, planned to perpetrate his deeds in the name of Hamas in order to sow dissent among the Palestinian people. Humayda was one of the members of Hamas who were deported to Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon.

Police Conduct Raids in Pursuit of 'the Engineer'

TA0309071695 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English*
0500 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian Police Chief General Nasr Yusuf says his force has carried out dozens of raids in the last few days in an attempt to capture Yahya 'Ayyash, the man known as the Engineer and believed to be behind several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] bomb attacks in Israel. Yusuf says there is still no evidence that 'Ayyash is in fact in the Gaza Strip.

More than 100 more Palestinian policemen are due to arrive in Gaza from Tunis. They are among about 2,000 new policemen to be deployed during the next phase of the Israel-PLO peace agreement.

'Arafat Returns From Rome, Chairs Cabinet Meeting

JN0209194095 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1900 GMT 2 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting for the National Authority's cabinet at the Presidency in Gaza immediately after he returned home from Rome this evening.

While in Rome, he participated in an economic symposium and held important meetings, including meetings with Pope John Paul II, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Italian officials.

The cabinet meeting, which is still in progress, is scheduled to discuss the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations held in Elat as well as the outcome of President 'Arafat's two-day visit to Rome, in addition to administrative and other issues.

President 'Arafat expressed hope that in the coming meetings the Palestinian and Israeli sides will overcome

all obstacles impeding an agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and that they will be the last meetings to finalize an agreement on the second phase.

Replying to questions posed by journalists at the Presidency in Gaza, President 'Arafat pointed out that he may meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres in Taba. He said that signing the agreement has been delayed for two months because it should have been signed on 1 July.

President 'Arafat described as constructive and good his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres in Rome. He said they discussed all issues and obstacles facing the Elat negotiations and how to promote the talks in order to quickly implement the second phase of the DOP.

Television Authority To Close Jerusalem Office

TA0109174395 *Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 1 Sep 95*

["Communicated by Eric Bar-Hen, police foreign press liaison"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Today, Friday, 1.9.95, Radwan Abu- 'Ayyash, chairman of the Palestinian Broadcasting and Television Authority, signed a declaration to cease activities in Jerusalem. The declaration was signed following a directive issued to it by Police Minister Shahal on 28.8.95, in which he stated that he intended to operate in accordance with the authority invested in him by legislation for implementing the 1994 Gaza Strip and Jericho Agreements and close the Palestinian Broadcasting and Television Authority in Jerusalem.

The declaration, presented to the Minister in accordance with his request, and thereby avoiding execution of the directive, said, that with its signing, the Palestinian Broadcasting and Television Authority will operate its authority only in its offices located in Ramallah, Jericho, and Gaza.

In addition, it was declared in detail that the Palestinian Broadcasting and Television Authority is not operating its authority and is not establishing a representative office in its name or on its behalf in Jerusalem, in accordance with the above mentioned law.

The declaration obliges Abu-'Ayyash to prevent activities forbidden it by the above law, and acknowledges that if he does not uphold aspects of the declaration he signed, the Palestinian Broadcasting and Television Authority should expect the directive to be executed by Minister Shahal.

Statistics Institute Pledges Not To Act for PA

TA0309131195 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Statistics Institute representatives today signed an affidavit pledging not to operate in East Jerusalem on behalf or with the financing of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the signing had been delayed for two days because Hasan Abu-Libdah, the bureau's owner [as heard], was opposed to the police minister's proposed phrasing of the affidavit.

Cabinet Condemns Libyan President's Statements

JN0309165895 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the National Authority has condemned statements by Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi which constitute a premeditated provocation against the Palestinian people and a distortion of their just struggle for establishing their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency, said the cabinet viewed these statements as an attempt to apply pressure on the Palestinian people, who have offered dear sacrifices in their drive for liberation and have contributed in building sisterly Libya. He added that these statements emanate from narrow and parochial considerations, regardless of the false slogans with which they were covered.

The cabinet also reviewed in its meeting, which was concluded late last night, the measures taken by the Libyan Government against Palestinian citizens there — measures that contradict Arab ethics and the common interests of the sisterly peoples. The cabinet condemned these measures and called on the Libyan side to suspend them, saying that this issue represents a yardstick to test the seriousness of slogans advocated by Libya before our people and nation.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Possible Proposal on Early Warning Stations Cited

TA0309200195 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held talks in Cairo today regarding the freeze on the Israeli-Syrian track. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that Israel may propose that five

Israeli and five Syrian technicians, as well as 14 Americans — all of them unarmed — be posted in each of the four early warning stations to be established in accordance with the peace treaty. The stations would be linked to a satellite. Half of the costs of launching this satellite would be financed by the United States and the rest by Israel and Syria. It is being suggested that these stations be established on Mount Hermon, Mount (Peres), Mount Meron in the Galilee, and near the Syrian village of Jabir. [passage omitted]

U.S. Plan for Israel-Syria Talks Said Launched

TA0409195295 *Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] At this point in time, the Americans seem determined to push the Israeli-Syrian track ahead quickly, and a U.S. plan has been already launched behind the scenes. Stage A consisted of messages to Jerusalem and Damascus on a new target date for initialing an agreement or holding a Rabin-al-Asad summit: March 1996, instead of January 1996. Stage B consists of formulating a compromise plan that will bring the parties back to the negotiating table. The ambassador talks would be resumed at once, with the understanding and acceptance that the officers talks would resume shortly thereafter.

A senior American source says: Al-Asad is not interested in an endless stalemate. He is waiting for the Israelis and Palestinians to sign an accord, and he intends to go ahead at the very last moment.

Jerusalem sources say that progress will be achieved only through active, vigorous involvement by the United States, which should be tougher on both parties.

Progress in Israeli-Palestinian Talks Reported

TA0109160795 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will confer with Yasir 'Arafat in Taba toward the end of next week in a bid to advance the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. This was announced today at a meeting held at the prime minister's bureau in Tel Aviv.

The debate about the talks with the Palestinians will continue in the prime minister's bureau on Sunday [3 September]. It was noted in today's session that the Palestinians are demanding that the release of the third batch of Palestinian prisoners take place at the beginning of the negotiations on the permanent arrangement, while Israel is demanding that it take place at the end.

The ministerial committee dealing with the Palestinian prisoners will convene at the beginning of next week. It was further announced that the disagreements over the operation of the safe passage from Gaza to Judea and Samaria have been settled.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Moshe Shahal reported on the agreements reached with the Palestinians with regard to their institutions in East Jerusalem. Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, warned about several difficulties in the emerging agreement, including the possibility that the Palestinians might try to expand their population in areas of security importance.

The Palestinians are making joint patrols in the cities to be handed over to them conditional on Israel's agreeing to their participation in patrols in the rural areas. It was further noted that the procedures for Rachel's Tomb following redeployment have not yet been finalized. The dispute over Hebron centers on the question of whether the Palestinians will be in charge while the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in the city continues, or responsibility will lie with Israel while the Palestinian Police are allowed to deploy in several neighborhoods. IDF officers warned that Palestinian control over the rural areas might end up being equivalent to their control over the cities.

Peres, 'Arafat Agree on Timetable for Meetings

TA0209115995 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have agreed on a timetable for further meetings on Palestinian self-rule. The two men are taking part in an international gathering in Cernobbio in northern Italy. After the meeting, Peres told reporters that an agreement would probably be reached at the end of this month. He said elections in the territories would take place at the end of the year.

A Palestinian official told REUTERS that no issues of substance had been discussed by the two men in their 15-minute meeting. An Israeli official described the atmosphere as very good.

In a speech to the politicians, financiers, and business leaders attending the Cernobbio symposium, Yasir 'Arafat chided Israel for the slow pace of the negotiations. The enemies of peace will exploit the standstill, he said, in an apparent reference to Israeli and Palestinian extremists.

Shim'on Peres told a news conference that Israeli and Palestinian delegations had met secretly in Italy in June and that there might be more such secret meetings.

To Meet 7 Sep To Discuss Hebron

*TA0309190795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[Announcement-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Taba on Thursday, 7 September, in another attempt to settle the disagreements regarding Hebron. In a comprehensive discussion held on the negotiations with the Palestinians at the prime minister's bureau today, the 20 [as heard] main points of disagreement were raised. It was reported that the Palestinians are demanding 130 million cubic meters of water annually, while Israel is willing to give them less than one-tenth of this amount.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that sources in Jerusalem believe that despite the differences of opinion, the agreement with the Palestinians can be signed prior to Rosh Hashanah, which falls on 24 September.

Hebron Gap Reportedly Larger Than Admitted

*TA0509061995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 5 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the [Israeli] negotiating team with the Palestinians say that it is already clear that the talks will continue longer than planned and will continue into next week because the disputes over several main issues, including Hebron and the release of prisoners, have still not been settled. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that it seems that the gap over Hebron is larger than claimed by several political elements. Israel is demanding that it maintain responsibility for overall security in the town, including control over most of the neighborhoods and the roads. The Palestinians are demanding responsibility for security in Hebron but agree to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] remaining in the old city.

Israeli Proposal for Compromise on Hebron Detailed

*TA0509072895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 5 Sep 95*

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is prepared to offer a compromise on the Hebron issue that would leave

security control with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Under the new proposal, the Palestinians would be handed over two Arab neighborhoods in the town where the Palestinian Police would operate. Israel had previously suggested setting up a single Palestinian police station in the Wadi al-Tuffah neighborhood. The principle is to leave the town and its environs under IDF control, with a symbolic Palestinian presence.

Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres toured Hebron yesterday in order to study the constraints and problems close up. The commander of the Central Command told them that if the city is divided between the IDF and the Palestinian Police, it will be impossible to guarantee the settlers' safety.

The dispute over Hebron has been gathering steam over the past few days. In the wake of last month's marathon talks between Peres and 'Arafat, Peres received the impression that 'Arafat now understands Israel's security problem and is prepared to accept the principle of a symbolic Palestinian presence in the town and Israel's uncompromising stand that the IDF will not pull out of Hebron, unlike the other West Bank towns. The issue was not resolved in those meetings, however. The pressure on 'Arafat in recent weeks has led him to revert to his opening position: an unequivocal demand that Israel pull the IDF out of Hebron.

Hebron remains in our hands, Peres made it clear last night in a closed party forum. To resolve the dispute and enable elections to be held in the territories, however, Jerusalem is now discussing a new solution: two police stations in two Arab neighborhoods in the town.

There are currently no negotiations on Hebron, and 'Arafat has not accepted the new proposal so far. The issue is so problematic that it will be raised in the Peres-'Arafat meeting in Taba later in the week.

Algeria**More Candidates Announce Bid for Presidency****Islamic Boumedienist Rally Leader**

*LD0109195695 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Mohamed Saadi, founder and leader of the Algerian Islamic Boumedienist Rally, intends to stand as a candidate in the presidential elections. [passage omitted]

Islamic Society Movement Head

*LD0309163095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahfoud Nahna, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, has announced his desire to stand in the forthcoming presidential elections, the first round of which is scheduled to be held next 16 November.

In a news conference he held this evening in Algiers, Nahna pointed out that he was standing to embody the total rupture with the past and achieve reconciliation among Algeria's sons.

Independent Ben Maati

*LD0409222995 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The leader of the Islamic society movement Hamas, Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah announced his candidacy for the 16 November presidential elections. He is the 15th person to enter the presidential elections race. [passage omitted]

Another candidate who intends to enter the presidential elections race is from Constantine. He is Abdelaziz Ben Maati, known as Azzouz declares in a statement that he wishes to be a candidate in the presidential elections as an independent.

Ben Maati occupied numerous positions in the irrigation field in a number of provinces.

[Begin Maati recording] I am an independent democrat. I will place my name forward in the presidential elections which will be taking place on 16 November 95, God willing.

My name is Ben Maati Abdelaziz known as Azzouz. I was born on 21st September 1945. I am married and have a child 17 years old. [passage omitted] [end recording].

HAMAS Shura Council To Participate in Elections

*LD0109200695 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The national Shura council of HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] during its ordinary session on 30-31 August decided to participate in the presidential elections. It also decided to extend the session so that it can debate the terms and conditions of taking part in the elections. The council also decided to hold a news conference on 3 September to announce the final resolutions of the council.

Extremist Violence Continues Over Weekend**Meftah Truck Explosion Kills 6**

*LD0209223795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The security services have announced in a statement that a booby-trapped truck parked near a bakery in the town of Meftah, in Blida Province, exploded at dawn today around 0500 killing six people, including two girls aged 9 and 19 years. [passage omitted]

Explosion Near Birkhadem Injures 7

*LD0409163895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A booby-trapped vehicle exploded this afternoon at about 1445 near the building of the municipality of Birkhadem, in Algiers Province. A statement by the security services said that seven people were injured in the blast.

The blast also caused minor damage to the town hall, some neighboring houses, and a shop, according to the same source.

Truck Full of TNT Disarmed

*LD0409083795 Paris LCI Television in French
0800 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just learned that a truck with 500 kg of TNT was made safe near Boufarik, 25 km from Algiers, yesterday.

French, Maltese Nuns Killed

*NC0309205795 Paris AFP in English
2052 GMT 03 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALGIERS, Sept 3 (AFP) - Two nuns, one of them French and the other Maltese, were shot dead Sunday [3 September] evening in the Algerian capital, reliable sources said here.

The nuns were killed shortly before 7:00 p.m. (1800 GMT) in the working class Belcourt district of the city, the sources said.

The two were named as French woman Denise Leclerc, 65, and Maltese woman Jeanne Littlejohn, 62. The two belonged to the order Our Lady of the Apostles.

The nuns were shot in the head in one of the main streets of Belcourt as they were returning to their home after attending prayers.

The Algerian security services did not immediately confirm the report of the assassination.

The killings bring to ten the number of members of the Christian community assassinated in Algeria since May last year.

Italian Technician Shot Dead

LD0209141595 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network*
in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique from the security services said the following. An Italian national was shot dead at the exit of the Canastel area in Oran this morning. The Italian national Angelo Gavezzoli was 53 years old and worked as technician in an Algerian private textile company manufacturing socks in Oran.

Female Journalist Assassinated

LD0409163495 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network*
in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just learned, with great sadness, that the hands of terrorism have struck again. They have murdered a colleague female journalist working for the cultural [section of the] radio. Miss Yasmina Brih was killed near her home in Eucalyptus district [in Algiers].

Another Journalist Killed

LD0309211095 *Paris France-Inter Radio Network*
in French 2030 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another journalist has been murdered in Algeria. Said Tazrout, 30, was working for the francophone daily LE MATIN. He was killed this afternoon by several bullets to the head near his home in the center of Algiers.

He is the 39th journalist to be murdered in Algeria since May 1993.

Body of Kidnapped Man Found

LD0409112995 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network*
in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According a statement by the security services, the journalist Said Tazrout, the correspondent of the daily LE MATIN in Tizi Ouzou, was assassinated yesterday near his home in the center of town.

In addition, the statement added that the body of Brahim Garoui was found yesterday near his home in Eucalyptus. Before his assassination, Garoui was kidnapped by an armed group on 2 September.

FFS Candidate in Blida Killed

LD0409213495 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network*
in French 1800 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The FFS [Socialist Forces Front] has announced that Yantrene Ahmed, its candidate in Blida during the last general elections, was killed outside his home on Saturday [2 September].

Security Service Claims 32 'Terrorists' Killed

LD0409121195 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network*
in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the security level, the security services announced in a statement issued yesterday that their forces had killed 32 terrorists in various operations in Boumerdes, Blida, Ain Temouchent, Batna, Saida, Ain Defla, Medea, and Djelfa.

The same source added that these operations enabled the security services to recover a quantity of different weapons.

Coastguard Seizes Vessel; Second Boat Escapes

LD0209151195 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network*
in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] While an Algerian coastguard boat was carrying out a routine patrol opposite the eastern coast of the country recently, it found two boats performing a suspicious maneuver north of Cap Rotzi in Annaba.

A statement issued by the Defense Ministry today pointed out that when the coastguardsmen approached, the crew of one of the boats immediately went on board the second boat after they threw parcels in the water — neither their number nor their nature has been specified. The boat managed to escape in the direction of Tunisian territorial waters, despite the warning shots of the Algerian coastguardsmen.

According to a statement by the Defense Ministry, the abandoned boat was towed to Annaba port, where it turned out to belong to a foreign Italian national. An investigation has been opened to ascertain the reasons for the presence of the two boats in that place, and the reasons for the escape of one of the boats and the abandonment of the other.

Chemical Nonproliferation Convention Ratified

LD0309164595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algeria has decided to join the Convention on Nonproliferation of Chemical Weapons. Algerian diplomatic sources said that Algeria had on 14 August deposited with the UN Secretary General the instruments of ratification of the convention. [passage omitted]

Egypt

President al-Asad Arrives for Talks With Mubarak

To Discuss Peace, Ties, Arab Issues

NC0309093995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Cairo today for talks with President Husni Mubarak. President Mubarak was on hand to receive the Syrian president at Cairo airport.

Talks between the two Arab leaders will deal with current Arab issues, developments in the peace process, bilateral relations, and issues of common interest.

Mubarak, al-Asad Hold News Conference

JN0309192295 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1758 GMT 3 Sep 95

[News conference by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad with unidentified correspondents in Cairo on 3 September—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mubarak] I take this opportunity to greet my brother, President Hafiz, who has been a colleague and a brother for a long time. For a long time, we have been accustomed to meeting every now and then to exchange views on international issues and issues of concern to the region and of interest to the two states, Syria and Egypt. This time, I have met with my brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, and we exchanged many ideas on bilateral relations and the region's developments so that we may be enlightened and so that

we may take a course in the interest of the Arab nation and in the interest of the existing problem. Thank you.

[Al-Asad] I thank my brother, President Husni Mubarak. As the president just said, we meet every now and then and exchange views, and discuss our new problems, current issues, and probably, future issues. It goes without saying that when I am in Egypt I feel that I am in my own country; I feel exactly as though I am in Syria. In fact that is how we grew up. Historical circumstances also helped us grow while adhering to these concepts. We will always remain like this, God willing. Indeed, we hope that future generations will live in better conditions than the conditions of this generation. As President Mubarak said, we discussed issues that we live with and talk about—issues on which we coordinate and exchange views. We look for what is beneficial and avoid harmful stands as much as possible.

I repeat my thanks to President Mubarak for everything, for issues on which we reached understanding—when we meet we always realize understanding on issues we discuss. My thanks to my brother President Mubarak; thank you all.

[Adil al-Yaziji, director of the Syrian Space Channel] Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, your meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was held amid important developments in the region. Would you give us an idea about what your talks covered, particularly since the meeting was held amid very significant issues and developments in the Arab region?

[Mubarak] I cannot possibly explain to you in this short time all the things we discussed and exchanged views on. Without getting into detail, I would say that we exchanged views on all the issues that concern the region.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, you have thus far not declared your stand toward the latest developments in Iraq. What is the Syrian viewpoint on this situation?

[Al-Asad] What has recently happened?

[Correspondent] The defection of General Husayn Kamil and his brother who are Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law. They have defected to Jordan.

[Al-Asad] Do we have to comment whenever someone defects from one country to another? [laughing]

[Correspondent] No, I mean the Syrian viewpoint on this situation.

[Al-Asad] This matter was probably given much more importance than it really deserves. There might be other objectives involved, but they are not very clear.

Anyway, some people might have pinned big hopes on that defection. I do not think that it deserves all the attention given to it by the various media.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Mubarak, if you allow me, I have a question on the same issue. The developments in the situation in Iraq might have been discussed during your meeting with the president. Do you believe the proposals being discussed in the international arena on the situation in Iraq correspond to the wishes of the Iraqi people and achieve the nation's interests?

[Mubarak] Numerous rumors and news stories have been circulating in the area. We discuss these news reports, read them, and try to analyze them, hoping to understand them. For now, I cannot say whether any of these rumors are true or not. All we are hoping for is that something will happen in the interest of the Iraqi people. We want to work toward lifting the suffering of the Iraqi people; they are helpless people. All of us should work to alleviate their suffering. Rumors about change in Iraq and the defection of Gen. Husayn Kamil do not have the impact some people were expecting, just like my brother President al-Asad said.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak, [Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa is carrying a message from your excellency to the Ethiopian leadership. What is your assessment of this visit, and can you tell us about the content of the message he will carry to the Ethiopian leadership?

[Mubarak] Ethiopia is undoubtedly a friendly state. What happened in Addis Ababa was out of its control. Ethiopia had no hand in the incident that occurred there. From the time of the incident until two days ago, the investigation was proceeding in total secrecy in Ethiopia, in the hope that they would reach a solution with Sudan. I believe that when they failed to find a solution with Sudan to hand over the fugitives, the persons concerned with the investigation in Ethiopia had to take certain actions, the latest of which was closing the borders and consulates and reducing diplomatic missions. They also closed nongovernmental offices. This is very strange. I do not think that Sudan can afford to establish a certain number of offices in Ethiopia unless its objective was nondiplomatic, nonpolitical, to carry out acts of sabotage, or to create problems. I cannot reveal the contents of a message the Ethiopian president has not yet received. But we visit Ethiopia because we have good relations. We all belong to the Nile basin. We listen to their views and to what goes on in Ethiopia.

[Correspondent] President Muhammad Husani Mubarak, President Hafiz al-Asad: Have you reviewed the results of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee, which concluded its meetings in Damascus two weeks ago? Do you believe that Syria and Egypt are proceeding toward economic integration, especially in the absence of a common Arab market?

[Mubarak] There is always cooperation between Egypt and Syria, although there might be differences at times like those between two brothers. But we always cooperate until we reach a level of integration in the interest of both countries. But this does not mean doing away with the idea of a common Arab market. The idea for that market emerged before the European market, but the latter was established first. Unfortunately, the idea of the Arab common market was shelved, although it should be established. The world is full of economic groupings. We must have a role in that market as an Arab region.

[Correspondent] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad: Apparently, the Syrian-Israeli peace track is facing some obstacles. There are reports about Syria's rejection of some proposals on monitoring on the Golan, as well as other issues. What is the status of the Syrian track at present?

[Al-Asad] No doubt, we all know that the Syrian-Israeli track is dormant [fi halat subat]. Most of the proposals and demands of the Israelis fall outside the framework of international resolutions. Syria wants action to be within, rather than outside, the framework of international resolutions. Of course, we are not expected to get into details and give examples. However, when we say that any side has departed from international resolutions, then this means that this side does not support the peace process, because it was based on these resolutions. Syria is bound by these international resolutions, which it accepted.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak: You have demanded that Israel investigate the killing of Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars. Has Israel responded to your demand? If not, how will you react?

[Mubarak] This issue is still under discussion. We are currently discussing what Israel can do, and what can be done, so that Egyptian public opinion can be reassured. This issue is still under discussion.

[Correspondent] Regarding the Palestinian-Israeli track in the peace talks. Despite the meetings of President Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres, there are still some hurdles on this track. What do you think of this?

[Mubarak] For any negotiations on a Middle East issue which has continued for 50 years, it is normal to face many obstacles because of the persistence of the issues

over that long time. I hope they will find solutions to these obstacles by the middle of this month.

[Correspondent] A question to Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak: Whenever the Syrian and Egyptian leaders meet, the issue of Arab reconciliation is always on the agenda. What does today's summit add to this issue in light of the developments in the Arab region?

[Al-Asad] Indeed, the Arab situation is the most important point on the agenda of this meeting, past meetings, and in any future meeting. But as you see there are negative additions to the Arab situation. These negative additions are not the wish of the Arab masses or the majority of their rulers. Someone always imposes them to add to our problems. But this makes it incumbent on us to cooperate more seriously and deal actively and positively with our issues. This also makes it incumbent on us to hold on tighter to our ability to emerge from this climate, a climate that is not surrounded by historic conditions or our civilization as an Arab nation. Perhaps, we now have the seeds of negligence among us as Arabs, but we should fight this and look forward to the future with optimism that relies, not on the unknown, but on actual work and determination. This must happen. I am personally optimistic regarding our future, the future that should be and must be.

[Mubarak] If you want me to talk of Arab reconciliation, we are all working to bring about Arab reconciliation. But occasionally the media publish articles analyzing certain incidents, such as the defection to Jordan of Husayn Kamil. When these analyses appeared here, some countries thought that national press is government-controlled and that journalists in the press cannot write an article or an analysis without instructions from the government. I would like everyone — not our brothers in Egypt — to know that the national press, like any other press, has freedom safeguarded by the Constitution and the law. We absolutely do not give orders to assail anyone. When the AL-JUMHURIYAH chief editor published an article that perhaps contained some excesses, and when AL-MUSAWWAR published its analysis, they said that since these papers are government-owned the government gave orders. We do not give orders. I read the papers in the morning like any other reader. We do not order anybody to write or not to write because journalists have freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. Journalists have the freedom to write, although this is national press. We will never suspend these freedoms. On the other hand, they gave their press instructions to slander us. We say "alright" and we thank them. We are working for Arab reconciliation, but reconciliation does not mean slanders exchanged here and there.

[Correspondent] President Hafiz al-Asad, it was officially proven that Sudan is involved in the assault attack against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa. What do you think of Sudan's interference and attempts to encroach upon its neighbors? Can Arab measures be taken through the Arab League to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

[Al-Asad] Everyone knows that Syria and others, I presume, reject any attempt to harm President Mubarak. I expect that everyone throughout the Arab World refuse harming any Arab leader or citizen. I talked to President Mubarak about this issue after the incident and I told him that the time will come to learn the truth. I think I and President Mubarak had identical views on the issue. I believe — even though I have no details — that the matter is still within certain limits. As officials in charge of states, we talk with various parties about this issue. Everyone condemns it. Let us leave this issue to time. I do not want to confine this issue to Syria. However, I am surprised that there are Arab leaders or rulers who believe that such acts are legitimate or acceptable in the Arab arena. So how would I not be surprised when such acts target President Mubarak, who is a friend and colleague. Nevertheless, what concerns us as heads of state is the public interest of our peoples and this nation. This is the basic goal we seek to serve and achieve even at the expense of our personal and individual affairs, although our personal and individual affairs are not merely personal because they are of concern to our peoples. As is well known, many of us were exposed to such attempts. However, this absolutely does not mean we should keep silent about an error, particularly an error of this kind. I believe that when the facts are revealed, every Arab citizen and leader will have a stand. I personally hope that no Arab is involved in this case. We always hope that no Arab would do such a thing. Anyway, the investigations will reveal everything.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak, Do you not think that Israel's positions on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and on the occupied Arab territories and the region stress the unwillingness of Yitzhaq Rabin's government to make peace and its ambitions for hegemony over the region?

[Mubarak] No. We cannot say that this shows a lack of desire for peace, but everyone wants peace his own way. Israel wants peace according to a certain way but as long as there is an aggression against sovereignty, no state will accept it.

[Correspondent] President Hafiz al-Asad, do you think that raising the level of negotiations between Syria

and Israel might surmount the current obstacles on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Al-Asad] In light of past experience, the higher level complicated things and jammed, to a large extent, the road of the peace process. This view is expressed by some Israelis from time to time. The remedy does not lie here. Here lies the disease.

[Correspondent] President Hafiz al-Asad do you think that the approaching date of the Israeli elections may delay the peace process? Do you think there is a difference between the Rabin government and any other government that may be formed after the elections?

[Al-Asad] The Syrian negotiator did not discuss with the Israelis their elections. This issue concerns them. The discussions were over the elements of peace and we have not reached an agreement on these elements.

[Correspondent] Despite the difficulties facing the peace process, are you optimistic?

[Al-Asad] No.

[Correspondent] President Hafiz al-Asad, the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries always meet whenever something happens in the Gulf. For example, they met last December when the Iraqi troops moved. They will meet on 20 September on the sidelines of the Arab League meetings. Are these sudden meetings, in this form, effective?

[Mubarak] The Damascus Declaration countries have dates for meetings and also meet on the sidelines of other meetings. Thank you.

Sidqi Comments on Talks, POW's

JN0309172295 *Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Cairo at 1200 today on a visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi said Egypt and its people welcome President Hafiz al-Asad in his short visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. In an exclusive statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, correspondent, Dr. Sidqi said: The Arab region is currently experiencing conditions and circumstances that necessitate holding this important high-level meeting.

He added: There are developments in the peace process as well as events taking place in some Arab countries. There are also some questions that are being raised throughout the Arab arena. He explained that these issues as well as other topics will be at the center of negotiations between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak.

He said talks will also cover relations between the two sisterly countries.

The Egyptian prime minister pointed out the meetings of the Joint Syrian-Egyptian Higher Committee, which concluded its meetings in Damascus recently. He described these meetings as a successful round of talks. He added that Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak will review the positive results achieved by the joint higher committee's meetings in the interest of the two countries. He stressed the importance of the Syrian-Egyptian summit, which will be held in Cairo today, in terms of coordinating efforts and positions and exchanging views regarding various issues of concern to the Arab nation.

Asked about developments concerning the issue of the Egyptian POW's who were killed by Israeli soldiers during 1956 and 1967 aggressions, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said: The Egyptian Government is closely following developments on this issue. President Mubarak announced Egypt's position on the issue and he is following its developments.

He stressed that Egypt will not accept anything other than an investigation into this issue to learn the truth and dimensions of this issue. He added that Egypt will then determine its position in a manner that will restore its rights and the dignity of its people.

Al-Asad, Delegation Depart

NC0309150495 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this afternoon, following a brief visit to Egypt that lasted a few hours.

President Mubarak was at the head of the farewell ceremony at the airport. Mubarak and al-Asad held talks on the latest developments in the Arab region and a number of issues of mutual interest. The two leaders held a news conference at the end of their talks.

Mubarak Interviewed on POW Issue, Iraq

TA0109212295 *Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Sep 95*

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a at the Presidential Palace near Alexandria; date not given — recorded, in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles; translated from the Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Barne'a] Mr. President, first of all I would like to thank you very much for this good opportunity. I am confident that Israeli citizens will

show great interest in your remarks. My first question from your excellency concerns the issue of the killing of POW's in previous wars. Your excellency has presented a proposal or demand to the Israeli Government to put on trial those persons in Israel who were responsible for this. Will you also be prepared to try in Egypt those responsible for killing Israeli POW's in previous wars?

[Mubarak] You are asking an odd question. First of all, we did not know that the Israeli army had killed Egyptian civilians and soldiers. You were the ones who said this. This was exposed by you. No one here said that Egyptian POW's had been killed. Mistakes might have taken place here or there, but you started this. After you started it, you also said that your own soldiers were killed. No one here admitted, said, or reached the conclusion that the Egyptian Army killed Israelis. You exposed this story only after someone admitted it. Whom shall we investigate?

[Barne'a] For example, I possess testimonies — you can have a look at them Mr. President — published in the Israeli press two days ago of Israeli soldiers and officers who were prisoners in Egypt in the October war. I also have recordings. They testify that their colleagues were prisoners in Egypt and were killed by Egyptian officers and soldiers. The same thing happened on both sides....

[Mubarak, interrupting] No, no, let me say something. You were the ones who admitted this. However, if people on your side testify that the Egyptians killed, that is inconceivable because the people who testified to being tortured were the Israelis, but on the other hand it was the Israelis who admitted to killing Egyptians. We are not a party either to the first admission or to the new story that you have recounted. Whom shall we investigate? You yourselves admitted that you killed Egyptians.

[Barne'a] Are you demanding that an investigation be conducted in Israel? Is there no need for an investigation in Egypt?

[Mubarak] If we have evidence that somebody did such a thing in Egypt we will investigate, because this is an inhuman and dishonorable act. If your research or studies center had not divulged this we would not have known. We have no research or studies center that said Egyptian forces killed Israelis. On the contrary, in general we treated them very well. Therefore, we were amazed when we heard that the information had come out from Israel. It did not come out of Egypt. If this had been the case, you would have said that Egypt is slandering us in order to refute the accusations against them. This is incompatible with logic.

[Barne'a] Will this matter affect relations....

[Mubarak, interrupting] You opened and raised this issue, and you exposed this information. You should resolve this matter. If anyone here had admitted to killing or had made a statement that he had killed, we would have interrogated him because we absolutely do not accept such actions by our forces.

[Barne'a] In your view, will this problem have an impact on bilateral relations?

[Mubarak] Look, we do not wish to turn this issue into a problem between the two countries, but we want to investigate the matter. They are our sons, just as you say: Those who were hurt are our sons. But we have no proof of this. When you are the ones who said that you killed Egyptians, and then the Israelis testified that the Egyptians killed them. What is this? Are you both witness and judge? This is ridiculous. You must conduct an investigation, because public opinion here, just like your own public opinion, is questioning us. I believe that you have heard about articles that are being published every day.

[Barne'a] I hear, read, and see the effect that it has on people.

[Mubarak] You raised the issue, and you disseminated it. You cannot say no; you must investigate. Public opinion will not accept this. They are our brothers and sons. We must become sure of this issue. If the investigation shows that nothing happened, then that is it. When I ask you to investigate, it is not to raise a problem between the two countries. If you say no, the situation will become worse. I do not feel that there is any need for us to launch an investigation. The truth must come out, and if the culprit is punished, then the matter will be closed.

[Barne'a] Mr. President, the second topic concerns the second part of the Oslo and Cairo accords. Six or seven weeks ago Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat visited you here in Alexandria. After the trilateral meeting, your excellency said that if there is no progress within one week, they will come back again. No progress has been achieved, and they have not returned. Why?

[Mubarak] First of all, let them resolve the problems among themselves. I do not involve myself in details; they must be resolved by the Israelis and the Palestinians. When they need help, we will welcome them. They still have some problems. They signed the first part here yesterday....

[Barne'a, interrupting] On civilian powers.

[Mubarak] Yes. They still have problems. I am sure that with good intentions and goodwill these problems will definitely be resolved.

[Barne'a] What is Egypt's role in this process?

[Mubarak] First of all, we support the Palestinian cause because the Palestinians' land is occupied. We must help them. We have to reach a comprehensive and just solution. This is important. Furthermore, what is our role? We are seeking peace. We are endeavoring with all the parties, directly or indirectly, whether with the Israeli or the Palestinian side. When we see logic in the Palestinian side, we talk with the Israeli side. Ultimately, Egypt wants the region to reach the shores of safety and peace.

[Barne'a] The Palestinian side always insists that Egypt be involved in the peace process. Is this of your own will or is it pressure by the Palestinian side?

[Mubarak] No, they request this. We do not impose ourselves on anyone. When you ask me for help — Mr. Rabin sometimes calls me in order to resolve some problems with the Palestinians. I talk with the Palestinians. As long as it is logical, I talk with them in order to remove the obstacles as much as we can. There are still problems on which we cannot take the side of one party against the other. We left them to negotiate. You and the Palestinians are able to reach agreement on marginal points, but Oslo and the like are very important. So is the Cairo accord. We have to involve ourselves in important matters, but if there are small issues, we intervene with the Palestinians and the Israelis....

[Barne'a, interrupting] You mean bringing the positions closer....

[Mubarak] In order to bridge the gap so that the process will move forward. [passage omitted]

[Barne'a] Mr. President, the issue of the current situation in Iraq — what is your assessment of what will happen in Iraq and between Iraq and Jordan? Is it true that you offered political asylum to Saddam Husayn?

[Mubarak] No, I did not propose this to him personally, but I suggested it on my own. I told this to King Husayn at his recent visit here — before Husayn Kamil came to him — that I am ready. When we talked about the Iraqi people and their suffering, I said to King Husayn that I am ready to host him in Egypt as a refugee....

[Barne'a interrupting] Husayn Kamil or Saddam?

[Mubarak] No, no, Saddam Husayn. I did not know anything about Husayn Kamil. If this would solve the problem of the Iraqi people, he is welcome. We have no objection to this. A few days after Husayn Kamil came, King Husayn called me. I told him that I still adhere to my stance so that we can solve the problem. He said that the man is not one who will relinquish his

position. I told him that if this is the case then I will not say anything. Now in Iraq they attack me. I said I am proposing a solution. If Saddam Husayn accepts it, he is welcome. If not, then we will leave it. I am not imposing on him anything. As I said in one of my statements, I was sorry that Saddam Husayn's children fled and left him — I mean as a family. Then they attack me. Do they want me to say that they should leave him?

[Barne'a] Who is attacking you?

[Mubarak] Their newspapers and his son. What is he called, 'Udayy? I am surprised. This is a tradition with us. We received the shah when no country in the world was ready to do so. We received al-Sanussi. We received King Sa'ud. We received....

[Barne'a, interrupting] Ja'far al-Numayri.

[Mubarak] Ja'far al-Numayri. We hosted many people. We only asked them not to engage in political activity. Egypt is a sanctuary for everyone. This does not mean, however, that we are accepting this person to strike at other countries. Absolutely not. They are all friendly countries. Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Sudan. They are friendly countries regardless of what might happen here or there.

[Barne'a] Mr. President, in December — some nine months ago — we interviewed Your Excellency in Cairo and asked you about the Syrian-Israeli track. You said that in your assessment an agreement between Israel and Syria will be reached by the end of 1995. Do you still adhere to this assessment?

[Mubarak] These are all hopes, because we hope that peace will prevail. We hope that people will reach agreements and that cooperation will begin among the states of the region. Israel is part of the region. I said that there were still obstacles between the Israelis and the Syrians on early warning. We have to find a solution. If the process moves and we achieve peace....

[Barne'a, interrupting] What should we do now? The fact is that the process between Israel and Syria is deadlocked.

[Mubarak] I believe that the United States is working on this and can exert effort in this direction. The Israeli side, too, should reconsider its demands. This does not mean that you should accede to all the Syrian demands. But the just demand, the demand not to harm dignity and sovereignty — this must be met. The demand to return territory — no one will accept that Syria relinquish one inch of its territory.

[Barne'a] But is Your Excellency convinced of Israel's security needs on all fronts? Are you convinced or not?

[Mubarak] I am convinced of Israel's security needs, but I would like to say something. I do not understand how early warning tallies with modern technology and equipment. We possess this equipment, but despite all this I say: If this will calm you, please. But with all the modern technological advances and the new inventions dealing with security, early warning stations are no longer fundamental in warning against any sudden attack. There are many types of equipment available in Israel and throughout the world. Insisting on a specific point — we must have flexibility. As I have said hundreds of times, peace deserves every sacrifice.

[Barne'a] Mr. President, what do you have to say about the opposition that Yitzhaq Rabin is facing in Israel to the peace process and to the process with the Palestinians?

[Mubarak] We have to anticipate this, anticipate opposition because perhaps when the Israeli people witnessed violence they said: No to peace; we do not wish to resolve the problem at all if there is violence. But violence seeks to hinder the peace process, to stop the peace process. I know that Yitzhaq Rabin is facing problems in this sphere. He is a man who can make decisions, and I am confident that he will proceed with the peace process, because when we reach the final peace, people begin to feel the value of peace, and cooperation begins on clear and distinct foundations, I believe that these extremists or this opposition will understand.

[Barne'a] What will happen if the Likud wins the next elections in Israel in over a year?

[Mubarak] I hope that peace will arrive before the Likud comes to power, even though we signed the first peace agreement with Menahem Begin, with the Likud. Despite being stubborn, logic played an important role with him. I talked with Menahem Begin many times about different issues. He listened and was flexible despite being rigid. He was able to make decisions. I believe that Rabin achieved a great deal in the peace process during this period.

[Barne'a] But when Yitzhaq Shamir was Israel's prime minister the Madrid conference was convened, but nothing was achieved either on the Palestinian track, the Jordanian track, or the Syrian track. Everything changed when Yitzhaq Rabin was appointed prime minister. Therefore, I ask Your Excellency, if after over a year elections are held in Israel — and you know that in Israeli elections everything is possible — and the Likud wins, what will happen in the region?

[Mubarak] I will tell you something. After what Rabin has done, it will be difficult — even if the Likud comes to power — to stop the process. It will be a

disaster, a disaster for the Israelis and the Palestinians. The Palestinians will be sitting on their land. And the Israelis? There will be no borders. Violence will increase if the peace process does not advance. There are elements that do not want peace. There are elements that do not want us to reach a final settlement. Therefore, they use all their capabilities, through terrorism, to impede the peace process. We must not give in to this terrorism. I believe that Mr. Rabin is very well aware of this. The proof of this is that he has continued the negotiating process.

[Barne'a] We all know that the principal problem obstructing the peace process is terrorism, the source of which is Islamic fanaticism in the entire region. What is your view?

[Mubarak] This must be dealt with not on the level of the Arab region, but by the entire world.

[Barne'a] The entire world?

[Mubarak] Of course, because there are fanatics operating under the cover of Islam, but I call them terrorists. They are not only present in all parts of the world, but great countries provide them sanctuary or grant them asylum. Therefore, I said some time ago that after a while those countries will suffer from this issue. They will set up underground cells and grow. Look at what happened in Denmark. Were they not intending to blow up different places in Denmark? We passed along information to Denmark about this. Look what was going to happen in Italy? Look what is happening in many parts of the world? It happened in the United States. It can be repeated at any time. Perhaps this will encourage Jewish fanatics and Christian fanatics. That will cause the eruption of fanaticism in the name of religion. Religions are innocent of all these acts. Then these acts will lead to disasters in the world. [passage omitted]

Israel's Dayan Arrives, Comments on POW Issue

NC0509061395 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2140 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Eli Dayan arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation that is visiting Egypt for several days. In an arrival statement, the Israeli official said he is visiting Egypt because of his great appreciation of its status in the region and because it was the first country to sign a peace agreement with Israel. He said that Egypt and especially President Hosni Mubarak are playing an important role in advancing the peace process in the region.

Responding to a question whether his talks will deal with the issue of the Egyptian POW's who were killed

by the Israeli forces during the 1956 and 1967 wars, Eli Dayan said that his visit to Egypt was scheduled before this issue was raised. However, he pointed out that he heard from Egyptian officials and from Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Israel, that this issue will not overshadow relations between the two countries. The Israeli deputy foreign minister added that if these actions had been indeed carried out it would have undoubtedly been by a few people who violated the policy of the state and army as well as the law, ethics, and values.

Eli Dayan said that he denounces and condemns these illegal actions. He added: If it was in our power we would have already started legal investigations and would have referred the culprits to court. He said that the law in Israel stipulates that if an issue is more than 20 years old it is subject to the statute of limitations. He said: We are talking about events that occurred more than 40 years ago and, therefore, we just cannot reopen the file or conduct a trial.

The Israeli official said that if Egyptian officials want to know any details we will be ready to supply them with every piece of information so that investigations can be conducted into events that occurred between 1948 and the date when the peace agreement was signed between Egypt and Israel. He said: We must conduct investigations into this issue to prevent it from recurring and also prevent such acts from occurring even by individuals.

To the question of whether Israel will submit an official apology to the Egyptian Government, the Israeli official said that Israel had previously denounced these deeds and had expressed its regret. He said: We stress that these deeds were carried out by individuals who violated the state's policy and the instructions given to the army.

For his part, Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Badr Hammam, who received the Israeli official at the airport, said that Egypt does not accept Israel's viewpoint, especially the one which says that war crimes are subject to the statute of limitations and that it cannot try the defendants because the deeds were committed more than 20 years ago. Moreover, international law stipulates that the crimes will not become subject to the statute of limitations, particularly since Israel is a signatory of the international agreement, he added.

Continuing, Hammam said: We cannot accept this logic because these crimes are not subject to the statute of limitations and because Israel, as a state, remains committed.

Musa: Israel Must Investigate Killing of POW's

NC0409104495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1010 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt has not yet received an Israeli reply to its request to investigate crimes perpetrated against Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars. These crimes were specified in the Geneva Conventions, especially the Third Geneva Convention, and they are not subject to the statute of limitations, he said.

In a statement before leaving Cairo for Addis Ababa yesterday, Musa stressed that there must be a probe into these crimes. He pointed out that he will discuss this issue with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan, who is expected in Cairo later today.

On the claims by some Israeli circles that these crimes die away with the lapse of time, Musa explained that there is an established international law that must be applied. Otherwise, he said, any country can defy the world and say crimes are subject to the statute of limitations.

He said double standards are not acceptable. Either all crimes are subject to the statute of limitations or none of them. How can the killing of Egyptian POW's be dropped while other cases such as Nazi crimes of World War II cannot, he asked. [passage omitted]

Daily Urges U.S. To Remove Israeli 'Obstacles'

NC0409211795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2042 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—The AL-AKHBAR newspaper has called on the United States, in its capacity as a full partner in the peace process in the Middle East, to take a tangible and positive stance toward removing the obstacles that Yitzhaq Rabin's government is placing in the way of any genuine peace. AL-AKHBAR says that the United States must emphasize this role in the interests of the peace process. In an editorial in Tuesday's issue, the paper says that the poor results achieved after years of arduous and lengthy negotiations between the Israeli delegations and three Arab countries are the most cogent proof that the U.S. assertions of its full participation in the peace process in this vital and strategic region are merely slogans reiterated now and then without having any tangible effects on the ground. The paper notes in this respect the Declaration of Principles that Palestine and Israel signed and the start of an incomplete type of self-rule in the Gaza and Jericho areas. This was a positive step that we had expected to constitute a motive

for more steps, but nothing has been achieved. Self-rule is still facing troubles and obstacles created by the Israeli party and the same applies to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Commentary Highlights Ethiopian Statement on Sudan

NC0209143495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Sep 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Ethiopia Deals Another Blow to the al-Turabi-al-Bashir Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following two months of silence on the horrid Addis Ababa crime, strong evidence has proven the involvement of the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime in its planning, financing, and undertaking—as well in harboring the criminals and murderers. After Ethiopian authorities were certain that the rulers of the terrorist regime in Khartoum were stalling for time and refusing to respond to their request to hand over the three defendants, the Ethiopian Government decided to take action to reveal to Arabs, Muslims, Africans, and all world states the truth about the fascist regime. It is a regime which used terrorism as a tool to sow sedition, shake security and stability, and interfere in the internal affairs of all neighboring states. It smuggles weapons and explosives and sends mercenaries to carry out sabotage operations for foreign powers on the orders of chief charlatan Hasan al-Turabi. This man crowned himself guardian of all Muslims and set about using Islam as a front to pursue his own, and his regime's goal—to stay in power, oppress the Sudanese people and pillage their wealth, and act as a broker for powers that are hostile to the Arab nation.

Let us review the official statement the Ethiopian Government issued yesterday to uncover the truth and silence voices which sold themselves to the devil as they defend the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime; just as they tried to defend the regime of Saddam Husayn, who destroyed Iraq, impoverished and isolated the people, and distorted the Arab image before the world community. These odd voices once defended the ruling regime in Iran, which inflicted grave harm on Islam and made Muslims pay dearly for their irrational conduct.

Let us go back to the Ethiopian Government's statement to point out the following:

1. The statement affirmed beyond doubt that the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime was involved in the Addis Ababa crime and that it desperately tried to hide this fact. It refused to hand over three of the prime suspects, hiding them in mercenary camps spread all over Sudan.

2. The statement shows that the al-Turabi regime has no regard for human values or the principles of international law, and that it has no respect for its neighbors. The regime turned down the Ethiopian request, although there is an extradition agreement which the two countries. The Ethiopian statement also affirms that the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime has been behind all the disturbances in regional states for a number of years. As a result, the Ethiopian Government took swift measures to protect its national security by closing a number of consulates, reducing diplomatic missions, halting Sudanese airlines flights to Ethiopia, and requesting an entry visa from any Sudanese who tries to enter its territories. Ethiopia closed the offices of Sudanese agencies that hide behind false slogans while planning and carrying out terrorist operations against neighboring states, even attacking state guests, like they did when they committed the lowly crime against President Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa.

3. The Ethiopian statement confirms an important fact; the Addis Ababa crime was not an aggression against the Ethiopian people and a violation of the sanctity of their territory solely, but a crime against all African people, the OAU, and even the world community. Hence, Ethiopian reserves the right to refer the issue to regional and international organizations.

4. The statement announced that Ethiopia been trying for four years to begin a new chapter with Sudan on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs. But these efforts have failed because of the irrational conduct of extremists within the al-Turabi-led National Islamic Front, who give no regard to friendship and who will always be the source of pain for people with good intentions, as the statement put it.

What do the Khartoum rulers say after all this? How will the charlatan and his follower behave after the blow the Ethiopian Government gave them, after its patience was tried by their criminal acts? What is al-Turabi-al-Bashir's next scheme, now that all their attempts to beautify the fascist regime, and curb popular wrath against their terrorist acts have failed? How will they face the growing national opposition inside the country and abroad and its efforts to overthrow the regime and rescue the Sudanese people from its claws?

Have Arabs and Muslims heard what the Ethiopian statement said about the Khartoum rulers? Have the fraternal people in Sudan realized that al-Turabi is raising the issue of Hala'ib these days to divert attention from his crimes against the Sudanese people, the Egyptian people, and their national symbol, President Mubarak?

We, and the whole Arab world, await your response to all these questions. When will you answer them o free men of Sudan?

Media Reaction Reported

NC0109212495 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2030 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian media — radio, television, and press — have highlighted the Ethiopian Government statement accusing Sudan of protecting the terrorists involved in the failed attempt on President Mubarak's life near Addis Ababa Airport on 26 June.

Cairo newspapers to be published tomorrow give the Ethiopian statement front-page prominence and highlight it in their banner headlines.

AL-AHRAM's headline reads: "The Ethiopian Government Accuses the Sudanese Regime of Trying To Assassinate Mubarak in Addis Ababa." The weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM says in its headline: "Ethiopia Punishes Sudan." AL-JUMHURIYAH's headlines read: "Ethiopian Statement Demands al-Bashir Government Hand Over Three Terrorists Involved in the Assassination Attempt on Mubarak." "Ethiopia Punishes Sudan for Supporting Terrorism."

The opposition newspaper AL-WAFD headlines its story as follows: "Ethiopia Officially Announces Sudan's Involvement in the Attempt To Assassinate Mubarak." "Addis Ababa Stresses That Terrorists Control Power in Khartoum."

AL-WAFD devotes its editorial to this subject. Under the headline "Time Has Come for Punishing Sudan's Military Men," the paper says: The serious statement issued by the Ethiopian Government must not pass easily. Results of investigations into the assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak, the symbol of Egypt, have proved beyond doubt that Sudan's military rulers are involved in sheltering the terrorists who planned or carried out the attempt.

The paper says the statement is an official testimony proving the accusations leveled by the entire world against Sudan, namely, that it provides shelter to killers and terrorists.

The paper writes: After the assassination attempt, the rulers of Sudan rejected Egyptian accusations that they were involved in the incident pending the results of official investigations by the Ethiopian Government. They said they trust Ethiopia's honesty and neutrality, and they organized a campaign to insult Egypt and threatened the Egyptians with cutting off the Nile's water.

The paper adds: Here come the results, telling the whole world that the rulers of a country were involved in an assassination attempt against the leader of another country.

Concluding, AL-WAFD asks: What are the military men of Sudan waiting for before handing over the terrorists? What do they expect now from Egypt and the rest of the world after this conclusive official condemnation? The paper says the military men of Sudan must pay a heavy price, because the Egyptians will not accept what happened.

Foreign Minister Musa Leaves for Addis Ababa

NC0309155595 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1533 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this evening for a two-day Addis Ababa visit. During his visit, he will hold talks with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi and Minister of Foreign Affairs Seyoum Mesfin. Musa arrived in Cairo yesterday after a tour of a number of African and European countries to participate in the Egyptian-Syrian talks which were held earlier today.

Further on Musa's Departure

NC0309171795 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1558 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—In a predeparture statement, Foreign Minister Musa said that he submitted a report to President Mubarak today on the results of last week's tour of a number of European and African countries. He stated that President Mubarak gave him a message for the Ethiopian prime minister [as received], noting that he will confer with his Ethiopian counterpart Seyoum Mesfin and with senior OAU officials.

Musa praised the serious investigations that the Ethiopian Government conducted regarding the abortive attempt to assassinate President Mubarak. He said that the results of these interrogations were expected from a country on whose territory an act of aggression took place, an aggression that in itself was against Ethiopia's territory and status. He said that it was not an aggression against Egypt and Ethiopia alone but against the OAU and the whole of Africa.

Musa pointed out that the talks that he will hold with the Ethiopian officials will deal with bilateral relations, the results of the interrogations and the serious situation created by the Sudanese policy. He said that the Sudanese regime is now convicted according to evidence of sheltering terrorists and unleashing terrorists to attack

President Mubarak. He noted that the statement released by the Ethiopian Government held the Sudanese regime fully responsible for the attack. He said that this attack is unacceptable now that it has been proven that certain quarters in Sudan had a hand in the aggression against President Mubarak. Musa is scheduled to return to Cairo on Monday [4 September] evening.

Musa: 'Detailed Report' on Talks

NC0409172195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1630 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening from Addis Ababa after a visit to Ethiopia during which he held talks with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin.

Upon his return, the foreign minister stated that he will submit a detailed report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of the talks he held in the Ethiopian capital with the prime minister and foreign minister. He said that the talks dealt with investigations into the failed assassination attempt on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa, the results of these investigations, and Sudan's clear responsibility in this operation and the dangerous situation this creates "because the issue is no longer one of mere accusations, but facts pointing to the responsibility of the Sudanese agencies in this issue."

He added that he exchanged viewpoints over this topic with the Ethiopian officials and that he will present a detailed report to the government. He pointed out that the Egyptian and Ethiopian Governments will continue to coordinate stances on this matter.

'Amr Musa expressed his appreciation for the Ethiopian Government's investigations and continuous follow-up on the attack on President Mubarak and for conveying the results of these investigations in detail to Egypt.

Musa described Egyptian-Ethiopian relations as good.

On the announcement by Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir that Sudan is currently looking for the person wanted by the Ethiopian authorities in an attempt to improve the image of the Sudanese regime, Musa said: If the will is there, it is possible to find all those wanted persons, but any attempt to buy time is rejected because it is a crucial matter and the attempt to assassinate any head of state is not a trivial issue nor can one accept any kind of cover up about it.

He affirmed that everyone condemns terrorism and any policy calling for it is rejected. He added that any policy supporting terrorism must be confronted by a firm stance if what is expected to be done regarding this incident is not done and if the defendants are not handed over, as

well as all those who support terrorism and its practices who find a shelter for themselves in Sudan. He added that things have become very clear now and that Egypt will have to study and consult over the measures it will take against Sudan.

Musa Views Iraq, Ethiopia, Security Council Seat

NC0209204695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1950 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt wants to avert the danger of bloodshed and clashes in Iraq. Such bloodshed and danger could affect the whole region and this is why President Husni Mubarak offered Iraqi President Saddam Husayn political asylum. We are now waiting for the circumstances that might or might not lead to a response on Iraq's part.

'Amr Musa said in statements to be published by AL-AHRAM newspaper tomorrow, Sunday [3 September], that Iraq is going through a great deal of tension—a very insufficient description of the situation in Iraq. This tension will worsen the situation of the people and expose Iraq itself to danger, which is something we want to avoid.

On relations with Ethiopia, the foreign minister said that they are at their best. "I will visit Addis Ababa tomorrow for further consultations and to bolster bilateral relations", he said.

On economic relations between Egypt and the African countries, 'Amr Musa said Egypt tried to join the preferential trade treaty for the countries of east and south Africa, but, regrettably, the Sudanese Government objected to that. The harm the Sudanese regime has caused the Egyptian people will never be forgotten. He affirmed that Egypt has enough bilateral relations and agreements to compensate for not joining the regional organization.

On the future of the private sector in Egypt, the foreign minister said that we are now trying to launch the potentials of this sector as a major factor for moving the economy, because businessmen are the only ones able to take risks and bear the consequences. He stressed the need for the government to help the private sector. The Foreign Ministry depends on this basis in the diplomatic march.

On Egyptian efforts to acquire a permanent seat for Egypt in the Security Council, 'Amr Musa said in his statement to AL-AHRAM newspaper that it is necessary to change the form of the Security Council in order to reflect the developments and new situation in the international arena and to increase the number of

members to 25 countries, as well as to allow effective regional powers to be represented in it. This way, peace will prevail. Egypt is one of these powers. We believe that six permanent seats should be allocated for Africa which are then rotated by a number of countries that meet certain criteria and for a certain number of years, either two or four years.

Musa To Submit Report on European-African Tour
NC0309052195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2050 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening following a week-long European-African tour. In an arrival statement, the foreign minister said that he will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of his talks in Albania, France, Cameroon, South Africa, Kenya, and Botswana. The foreign minister said that his visit to Ethiopia has been postponed to Monday, 4 September. He noted that he will hold talks with the Ethiopian prime minister and the foreign minister.

Commenting on the Ethiopian communique that confirms the involvement of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime in the abortive coup against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, 'Amr Musa said this topic is under discussion. He added that it has become evident to Ethiopia that the Sudanese regime was involved in the plot and that that regime is harboring terrorism and terrorists. This is extremely serious and we will comment on it later, the foreign minister said.

Touching on the developments in Bosnia, 'Amr Musa said: Undoubtedly, the U.S. initiative and the NATO's intervention are extremely important steps. He said that NATO's intervention was expected during his talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. The foreign minister said this intervention was necessary to establish credibility for the international reaction to the continued Serbian aggression against civilians in Bosnia.

'Amr Musa said that this is why the Islamic Contact Group and the International Contact Group met at ambassadorial level in Geneva. He said it is expected that another meeting at ministerial level will be held soon, adding: We are in constant contact with the International and the Islamic Contact Groups so we can make our stand known.

Minister Delivers al-Qadhdhafi's Message to Mubarak

NC0309121695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1140 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message today

from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who delivered the message at a meeting with the president today, said that it deals with a number of issues of mutual interest and that it is part of the continuing consultations between President Mubarak and Col. al-Qadhdhafi.

The information minister issued a statement after the meeting saying that he had reported to the president on his visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Mrs. Mubarak Leaves for Conference on Women
NC0209144795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1410 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Mrs. Suzan Mubarak left Cairo for Beijing today to chair Egypt's delegation to the fourth international conference on women to be held under UN sponsorship on 4-15 September.

Mrs. Mubarak will deliver Egypt's speech to the conference on Wednesday [6 September]. She will detail Egyptian strategies to enhance women's capabilities in the various fields and review their achievements.

Mrs. Mubarak will meet with a number of world figures taking part in the conference, including the Chinese president and prime minister, as well as the chairwoman of the Chinese women's union. [passage omitted]

MB Claims Government Forcing Out of Elections
NC0309124095 Paris AFP in English
1224 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 3 (AFP) — The Moslem Brotherhood [MB] accused the Egyptian government on Sunday [3 September] of trying to force it out of upcoming parliamentary elections by putting 50 of its members on trial before military courts.

"The government has resorted to military courts to deprive these prisoners of their right to run for office and to be elected," the banned Moslem fundamentalist group said in a statement received by AFP. The government "has shown its insistence on barring the moderate Islamic movement from playing its role and conducting its duty," the Brotherhood said.

President Husni Mubarak ordered 50 arrested Moslem Brothers on Thursday to be brought before a military court, in the first trial of the group since the Brotherhood leader Sayyid Qutb was condemned to death in 1965. The daily AL-AHRAM said they would go on trial on charges of having "broken the law on organising

political parties" and for trying to "recreate a banned party."

Chief among the 50 is 'Isam al-'Uryan, assistant general secretary of the Brotherhood-controlled medical union and a former parliament member, who was arrested in January. "We had hope that with coming elections, the government would take positive steps including measures to repeal emergency laws and the law against terrorism and to open up personal liberties," the Brotherhood said.

The group called on "all national parties and powers to use all legal means to stop this aggression." The Brotherhood has announced plans to enter elections due this November unlike previous contests which the group has boycotted.

The Brotherhood was set up in 1929 but banned by former president Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in 1954. Many of its members were jailed in 1965 for trying to overthrow Nasir and then released by his successor Anwar al-Sadat. Since 1976 it has been tolerated because of its non-violent stand, although the ban was never officially lifted. The party wants an Islamic state based on Islamic law or Shari'ah, but it officially rejects the use of arms. But Mubarak accused the Moslem Brotherhood in 1994 of "being behind" attacks by Islamic militants in Egypt that have now left more than 860 people dead in three years.

Thirty Brotherhood members were arrested in January, and another 19 were netted in a police sweep in July. Another is on the run, while 23 of those arrested have been released from custody. Mubarak has ordered military courts to try the Moslem militants waging a battle since March 1992 to topple the government. There is no right of appeal.

Al-Alfi on Muslim Brotherhood's 'Illegal' Acts

NC0409145295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that the security services have evidence proving that the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] group is involved in illegal activities.

In a press statement after an inspection of the Police Academy today, al-Alfi said that the MB Society has been dissolved in the past and therefore its activity is unlawful and illegal. MB members have held contacts and meetings constituting a crime punishable by law. Accordingly, a search warrant was issued by the prosecutor and documents and evidence were seized proving that they had violated the law. He said the Higher State

Security prosecutor examined the evidence and brought charges against them.

On the referral of MB members to the military court, al-Alfi said the referral of cases to the military court is provided for under the Constitution. Its aim is to expedite the processing of cases posing a threat to the country's security and stability. He affirmed that there are safeguards for the defendants and their defense lawyers. He indicated that the referral of such cases to ordinary courts takes years to be examined in view of the large number of ordinary cases before the courts.

On whether the arrest of MB members is designed to prevent them from contesting the upcoming People's Assembly elections, al-Alfi said: How can this be? There is proof and evidence implicating this group and investigations have been going for over six months.

On the recent Ethiopian Government statement implicating the Sudanese regime in the failed assassination attempt on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa, al-Alfi said the Ethiopian statement was hundred percent clear, comprehensive, and unequivocal. He said intelligence work, investigations, and the several cases uncovered in Egypt prove that the Sudanese regime is involved in sheltering and training terrorist elements inside camps in Sudan.

On whether the Egyptian security services will ask Sudan to extradite the terrorists to Egypt, al-Alfi explained that the judiciary authorities will do this.

On preparations for the upcoming People's Assembly elections in November, al-Alfi reaffirmed that the elections will be fair and free and that the police will not interfere in the election process directly or indirectly. He said that there are clear instructions from the political leadership for the police to be completely neutral. He indicated that the ministry has prepared the voters lists and that the names of deceased voters have been deleted from these lists. He added that all rumors to the effect that the elections will be rigged are false and groundless. He said the police keep the peace outside the election committees and will not interfere in the counting of votes.

Libya

Government Celebrates Revolution Anniversary

LD0109094295 Tripoli JANA in English
0815 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Fateh [Sep] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Libyan Arab people today celebrate with all freedom lovers in the Arab homeland and the world the 26th anniversary

of the great al-Fatih revolution which came as a sincere response to the repeated appeals by our people for change and purging and calls for action and initiatives. The revolution ignited to take revenge from the colonialist usurpers who occupied this land slaughtering, making destitute and banishing its inhabitants and score victory for the great values for which our fathers and forefathers presented scores of martyrs who died for the sake of freedom and the dignity of this land. Accordingly the great al-Fatih revolution was really the decisive battle in the struggle of the Libyan Arab people against those who enslaved it.

The Libyan Arab people arrives the 26th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution on a great bridge of civilizational achievements and gains realized thanks to the free revolutionary will in the political, economic and social fields after the victory of the revolution in its decisive battle by achieving political independence and revenging the fathers and forefathers struggle. This started by undermining and destroying the foundations of the defunct regime eliminating forever the rotten monarchy to the eviction of colonialist military forces and bases which used to be deployed on this land and the uprooting of the remnants of Italian colonialists and expelling them to whence they came after the used to control the most fertile Libyan Arab lands and usurp their wealth. Als [as received] to the nationalization of the resources of the people and regaining them from colonialist companies which used to monopolize them and nationalizing the banking and insurance sector restoring the stolen wealth to the people harnessing it for the process of construction and progress, the revolution redistributed the wealth so as to realize happiness for the Libyan Arab individual. This was reflected in modern healthy accommodation which were built in lieu of shanty towns, the expansion of the construction of educational institutions and the adoption of curricula which guarantee to form the new exemplary individual in conformity wpoth the principle that education is not an end in itself but means for forming the new exemplary individual who will shoulder the responsibilities of construction and progress, the provision of comprehensive health care expanding its scope to cover all parts of the Great Jamahiriyah and making available all sorts of medical services. The revolution turned the mountains into green areas and the desert into green spaces full of prosperity and development distributing modern farms with all their services and means of production to families. Also the construction of hundreds of industrial fortresses and the biggest road networks in the world, the realization of the biggest electric power network in the world and after that showing the power of the revolutionary determination by realizing the 8th wonder and the undisputed project of the era - the great man-made

river which forces water to flow out of the desert to the north in pipelines extending thousands of kilometers to turn whatever area this water reaches into a development and an historic epic in fulfilment of the hopes and dreams of fathers and forefathers and for which they have sacrificed. This has been [word indistinct] witnessed by the Libyan Arab people and the whole world few days ago when the leader of the revolution distributed certificates for benefiting from the first one thousand farms irrigated by the waters of the great man-made river. The certificates were distributed to the first one thousand families in a historic day which will be recorded by history forever.

These material achievements throughout the last 26 years were accompnied by historic moral achievements in which the revolution scored huge victories at the level of the struggle for freedom. The revolution with its revolutionary might and firm determination and the ideas of the third universal theory, which reflects the struggle of man for final emancipation lay the ground for a new era where the masses control power, wealth and weapons in a happy and free society. The first jamahiriyah in the history of mankind was established. This historic event came from the heart of the Sahara as the proclamation of peoples authority was announced in the city of Sabha on 2nd of March 1977. This authority was enhanced and with it the victory of freedom triumphed through the declaration of the greater green charter of human rights in the era of the masses, the abolishing of prisons and releasing the prisoners, the tearing up of the lists of those who used to be banned from travelling abroad, the enhancement of workers struggle in the world and giving them hope for lasting salvation from exploitation and wage slavery by declaring the producers revolution in al-Fatih 1979 ending from the first time in history the system of wages and wage earner and establishing instead the system of partners where there is no employer, be it an individual or a state but only partners on the bases that what is produced is consumed. This material and morale achievements and gains by the great al-Fatih revolution have always been in the essence of the pan-Arabist vision entrenched in the meaning of the glorious revolution and the belief that any civilizational achievement on any part of Arab land will always face and eminent threat if not protected by the barrier of Arab unity.

Accordingly the history of the great al-Fatih revolution has always been of earnest unionist action aimed at safeguarding the present of the nation and the future of its forthcoming generations. This has been exemplified by the important unionist efforts in which the Great Jamahiriyah has always been the founding party or the

sponsor or the initiator like in the abolishing of borders and border post between the Arab peoples, the constant instigator for an Arab unity on the bases of the interest of the masses and the liberation of all Arab land.

These huge achievements in the last 26 years have a historical significance at the level of mankind struggle for liberation and salvation from despotism, tutelage, subordination and subjugation which constituted the main reason for the forces hostile to the peoples and freedom to turn against the great al-Fatih revolution. this reason stands behind the move by these forces who have a colonialist mentality to create all sorts of excuses and justifications to plot against the Great Jamahiriyyah, attempt to hinder its unionist and liberation role using all these excuses as a means to impose the embargo and unjust measures on this Arab steadfast fortress.

However the great al-Fatih revolution, thanks to its huge human civilizational heritage of struggle and historic heroic confrontations against those forces, continue firmly the confrontation against those forces and defying their spiteful crusader conspiracies by scoring further achievements, progress and mobilization of the Arab masses and instigating them to achieve their freedom and unity and confront their enemies. The great al-Fatih revolution is backed and supported by the peoples and nations of the world including its states and regional and international organizations.

The Libyan Arab people celebrate the 26th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution with high morale, strong determination and firmer and strong defiance of the enemies. This has been shown by the ceremonies of defiance in which the masses welcomed their leader in every city, village and home throughout the Libyan Arab land enhancing the continuation of the development process and the realization of further gains and glorious historic days in the life of all mankind.

Statement by 'Heir' on Leader's Anniversary

MM0109162395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 1 Sep 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Prince Muhammad al-Sanusi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Monarchy's Return Not Proposed at Present"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prince Muhammad al-Hasan al-Rida al-Sanusi, heir to the Libyan throne, whose family ruled Libya prior to President Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's assuming power on 1 September 1969, said that the Libyan regime "has pushed the country towards a whirlpool of problems, failures, wars, and isolation. The regime has also pushed the tribes to hatred, hostilities, and infighting to the point that Libya and Libyans have become subject to suspicion everywhere."

Al-Sanusi added in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's assumption of power that "the promises of prosperity and progress made by the putschists have turned into catastrophes and caused thousands of Libyans to leave their country."

On Col. Qadhafi's decision to encourage the emigration of Libyan families with the purpose of settling abroad, al-Sanusi said that the aim is to "empty the country with the aim of seizing its wealth and resources, and to ease the people's pressure and the increasing acts of national resistance." He added that this decision and the campaign to deport thousands of Egyptian, Palestinian, and Sudanese workers and residents demonstrate "the ruin of the national economy and the exposure of false national slogans."

Al-Sanusi went on: "I am not proposing the return of the monarchy at present. What is needed is to rid the country of suffering and restore the rule of the Constitution which allows the people the choice of the type of regime they want, through free elections under UN supervision."

He went on: "The coup experience and the lean years that our people have gone through confirm that Libya has no life without the Constitution."

On the economic sanctions imposed on Libya, al-Sanusi said: "Undoubtedly, there is no hope of lifting the international boycott imposed on our country as a result of the complications in the Lockerbie case."

Al-Sanusi attacked Col. al-Qadhafi's positions on some Arab and Islamic issues, saying: "Al-Qadhafi has reached the point where he goes beyond the general feeling and supports Bosnia's Serbs at a time when support campaigns for its Muslims are on the increase.... He has also reached the point where he calls for an urgent meeting of the Joint Arab Defense Council to confront what he calls the threat against Iraq."

Warns al-Qadhafi To Learn From Iraq

MM0109132695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
31 Aug 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Sanusi Urges al-Qadhafi To Learn From What Is Happening to the Iraqi Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH - Prince Idris al-Sanusi has urged Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi "to learn from what is happening to the Iraqi regime and to spare Libya and the Libyan people more suffering."

Al-Sanusi said in a statement on the 26th anniversary of the "al-Fatih" [1 September] revolution that "this

sad anniversary marks the coup against legitimacy, the constitution, and the Libyan people's true values under the leadership of the al-Sanusi family, and has nothing to do with revolution and progress."

He added: "On this painful occasion, all I can do is grieve for the victims of 26 years of tyrannical rule and urge al-Qadhdhafi to voluntarily relinquish power and restore legitimacy and the constitution."

He went on: "Tyrannical rule must come to an end. Libya's isolation is caused only by the regime and its deeds. The regime has ruined its reputation abroad and destroyed its economy and society. Libya is now isolated and its society torn by factional and tribal conflicts, its social fabric is disintegrating, and the disunion is increasing even between the regime's members."

He added: "What is happening in Libya represents a threat to the people's unity and to territorial integrity. The only solution is for al-Qadhdhafi to step down and learn from what is happening to the Iraqi regime, where disintegration is taking place within the family itself. Responsibility rests with al-Qadhdhafi to spare the country any more catastrophes. Change is inevitable, but we want it to be peaceful. Obstinacy will be of no use to those clinging to power, but will bring calamities to them and the Libyan people."

Al-Sanusi called on the Libyans to "hold on to hope, because they and the al-Sanusis are capable of bringing about change no matter how long the era of darkness."

Mauritania

BBC Discusses Living Conditions in Refugee Camps

AB0109221695 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 1 Sep 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mauritania has been hosting more than 40,000 refugees from neighboring Mali for the past two or three years. Tuareg and Moorish people fled across the border at the height of the conflict in Mali between the government and Tuareg rebels. Since the cease-fire in Mali, some of the refugees have gone home, but many are staying put. Our correspondent Joseph Winter is in Mauritania, and has just been to visit the camps. Kadiri Ahmed asked him where he'd been:

[Begin recording] [Winter] I went to three refugee camps. One is in Bassikounou. I went to a second one in Mberag, which is 35 km away from Bassikounou, and I went to a third, which is 17 km away from Bassikounou, which is called Ahor. And these three refugee camps are situated in the extreme southeast corner of Mauritania, just maybe 30 miles away from the Malian border.

[Ahmed] And what sort of conditions were these refugees in?

[Winter] Walking around. You don't see too many problems, to be honest, and a lot of refugees managed to escape with their cattle, cows, sheep, goats, and so these are wandering around the refugee camps. They have all got tents which shelter them from the sun and the wind. Each family has constructed a fence around its own compound. So, it does look like a village except that there are so many people. The one problem is that there seems to be a problem of malnutrition. The most recent nutritional survey found that 17 percent of the refugees were suffering from acute malnutrition, and so, that is obviously very worrying.

[Ahmed] It sounds as if they are pretty settled?

[Winter] Yes, each of the three refugee camps which I visited has its own primary school, a health center, water supplies which are completely free, even a youth center, women's group, and a handicraft cooperative.

[Ahmed] And in your conversations with them, did they indicate if they had any intentions of going back to Mali?

[Winter] Well, 3,000 of the 42,000 have already gone back. Another 3,000 have signed up to go on an organized repatriation, which will be conducted by the UNHCR some time between October and January. Then, there are people who are waiting a bit longer to try and see, maybe, if the rebel fighters will be integrated into the Malian Army and if those responsible for the massacres will be judged, and some others have got no confidence whatsoever in the Malian Government and in the Army. They think that anyone who goes back home will be immediately slaughtered and they think that the Malian Government has only signed the recent peace agreement in order to get money from the donor community.

[Ahmed] Were you able to ascertain what the attitude of the Mauritanian Government was toward these refugees?

[Winter] The Mauritanian Government is not going to cause many problems like in Zaire. There is no question of forcible repatriation, anything like that. They have given them a small corner of their territory. They are not willing for these camps to be used as rebel bases in order to attack the Malian Government. I spoke to the local authorities, and they are also quite happy to have the refugees there, although there have been some conflicts over water and grazing for their herds. [end recording]

Sudan**Government Reacts to Ethiopian Ministry Statement**

EA0209130595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has expressed regret at the statement issued by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry which contains accusations and measures against Sudan in connection with the attempt to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime [Arabic: nizam] in Addis Ababa, which Sudan condemned and denounced at the time.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry issued a statement yesterday evening which said that 32 days after the attempted assassination, Sudan received a message from the Ethiopian Government asking for a search to be carried out and for three Egyptians suspected of taking part in the [attempted] assassination to be arrested. The message said they were believed to have entered Sudan.

The Foreign Ministry statement said that Sudan dealt with this Ethiopian message at the highest level and with all seriousness. In its reply to the Ethiopian Government, the Sudanese Government stressed the principles of Sudan's stand, confirming that it condemned the incident and stressing that Sudan was committed to the agreement on the exchange of criminals which the two countries had signed and was committed to carrying out the required investigation. The government also formed a high-level committee of all the organs concerned to investigate the matters mentioned in the Ethiopian Government's message. The committee carried out a full investigation and established that one of the accused, who, according to the Ethiopian authorities, was an Egyptian citizen carrying forged Ethiopian and Sudanese passports, had entered the country before the incident happened but had not been found. It was not established that the other two had entered Sudan. The Sudanese Government took several measures on the basis of the investigation and the evidence, including bringing back visas for entry into Sudan and listing all the foreigners in Sudan.

The Foreign Ministry statement said that the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry's accusations against certain Sudanese institutions in Ethiopia, institutions which originally consolidated relations between the two brotherly peoples, were incorrect and without proof or evidence. As for the other accusations about the direction of Sudan's civilization and the structure of its authorities, they have been made before from the same quarters and replied to in such a way that there is no need to deal with them now.

While Sudan regrets the measures taken by the Ethiopian Government, measures likely to harm the interests of the Sudanese and Ethiopian peoples and taken after Sudan had shown all the required cooperation, it reaffirms its hope that regional stability and security will be entrenched and the Ethiopian Government will put joint interests first.

It is worth noting that the Ethiopian Government has taken a number of measures against Sudan on the pretext that Sudan did not hand over three people it claims are connected with the attempt to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime, Hosni Mubarak, in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, last June.

Al-Turabi Views Ethiopian Step, 'Enemies'

NC0209195795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Hasan al-Turabi, leader of National Islamic Front, by Mahdi Hasan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, is what the Ethiopian Government said about the presence in Sudan of three of those who carried out the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak true?

[Al-Turabi] [Ethiopia] protested to the Sudanese Government a few weeks ago that three of those who planned the operation have found shelter in Sudan or are currently present in Sudan. However, the Sudanese Government could verify only one of the names by checking a list of arrivals at the airport. The Sudanese Government promised the Ethiopian that it would look for this person and, that according to the agreement on the extradition of criminals and murderers, it could take measures against him and the others.

However, the Ethiopian Government hastened to take its declared measures. But people here know that these measures have been taken only as a result of continuing pressure—a fact they have frankly admitted. A ranking official from Ethiopia told me this frankly over two years ago. He told me that people arriving in Ethiopia from our neighbor [Egypt] and from those supporting them in the West are warning them against Sudan and the Islamic surge here. They said that this would pose a danger to Ethiopia, despite the fact that these rulers of the two countries lying east of us were refugees in Sudan who know very well how Sudan received them and how the people of Sudan treated them. They are not even Muslims to start with. But pressures became too much for them to bear. Any aid or support extended to them became dependent on the siege [of Sudan]. Anthony

Lake, the American, stated that he wanted to destroy ties by applying pressure on Sudan's neighbors.

The strange fact is that they never accused a Sudanese person of personally being involved in what happened to Husni Mubarak. Despite that, they expelled all Sudanese people working in Islamic organizations. They are now the only ones working in a number of Islamic organizations, be they Sudanese or not. I fear that this has something to do with the fact that the Muslims in Ethiopia have started to demonstrate for their rights by the hundreds of thousands. The westerners might sometimes frighten the Ethiopians by telling them that Islam is around them and in their own land it is a danger to them and that they should exploit any dispute or find any pretext to stop air transport links with Sudan, reinstate visa requirements for the Sudanese, and throw the blame on the people of Sudan in support of previous charges. But earlier charges claimed that the Sudanese themselves were the ones who committed the crime. Now, the story has changed and they are Egyptians who have entered Sudan. Our brothers in Ethiopia know very well that over 100,000 Ethiopians are still refugees in Sudan. They prefer to stay in Sudan, even after their country became safe from some internal conflicts.

The background for this is the Eritrea issue. The Eritrean ruler comes from the same tribe and is a relative of the ruler of Ethiopia. Therefore, it was not a shock to the people of Sudan nor an unexpected event between one country and another which share long borders. Many of them come to Sudan to work in houses, farms, and other places.

The West does not want African people to communicate with each other. Just as they divided Africa by artificial borders in the past, they want to divide it today by creating tension among the various countries. The Islamic factor terrifies them. They want to surround it by driving a wedge between it and Iran, between Arabs and Africans.

[Hasan] As you said, the United States and the enemies of Sudan wager on destroying relations between the Sudanese Government and Ethiopia to achieve wicked gains. Do you think that tripping relations between you and Addis Ababa can have a negative impact on Sudan?

[Al-Turabi] No, there will be no negative impact on Sudan in particular. Thank God, Sudan is self sufficient in terms of food as well as oil, agricultural, and animal wealth. We had a regional group embracing us, Ethiopia, and the Horn of Africa. People in the West want to set up blocs in West Europe and the northern parts of America. But they do not want that to happen in an African region, particularly in a country like Sudan with its African surrounding, its Arab language, and its

Islamic character. I am not talking about Islam as a history, but as a line to be pursued both in public and private lives.

[Hasan] You must agree with us that America's attempts to spoil Sudan's relations with neighbors seek to stop the flow of Islam to African states. Do these attempts really block the flow of Islam from Sudan to African states?

[Al-Turabi] If we look at Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, we will find that the majority of the Horn of Africa is Muslim and most Ethiopians are Muslims. They were oppressed in the past; they were never given a public position, no matter how small it might have been. They were only given lowly jobs. But the road is open to them now. They are advancing in life now. The same thing applies to Islam in the other African states [words indistinct] advances first [words indistinct].

Even the wedge they are driving now, hoping it would block the flow of Islam, angers Muslims and reminds them that Islam is being targeted. It reminds them of their Islamic identity. Even the negative anti-Islamic propaganda spreads Islam in spite of them. Negative propaganda that targeted Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be on him, and accused him of being a magician, a poet, or a liar spread the news of the prophet and eventually propagated his message of Islam. This is what is happening now. The attacks against Sudan and Iran spread the Islamic consciousness, drew the attention of the cultured groups to the campaigns that target Islam, and sensitized Muslims about their forgotten identity.

Islam in Africa is progressing. It will forge ahead. God will triumph even if the atheists hate it.

[Hasan] God willing.

Assembly Speaker Greets Ethiopian Counterpart

EA0109212695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, has sent a letter to Dawit Yohanes on the occasion of his election as the speaker of the Ethiopian parliament.

In the message he said that the constitutional achievement by Ethiopia was an important step in the progress of democracy, organizing the country by entrenching the foundations of federalism, which will bring the brotherly Ethiopian people stability and development. Al-Khalifah said the coming phase would witness further consolidation of relations between the parliaments of the two brotherly countries.

Two Islamic Relief Employees Killed in Ethiopia

*EA0309125095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1015 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 3rd September: Two Sudanese nationals were assassinated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Saturday [2 September] afternoon.

A source at the Foreign Ministry, in a statement to SUNA, said the two were employees of the Islamic Relief Agency and named them as Dr. Abdallah al-Ga'ali and Muhammad al-Fatih Yusif Muhammad Ali.

Further on Killings

*EA0309154095 Nairobi KNA in English
1340 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3rd September: Two Sudanese nationals working for an international NGO [nongovernment organizations] were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Addis Ababa Saturday [2 September], sources confirmed Sunday.

The two, including a medical doctor, were working for an Islamic relief organization. They were shot dead near their residence at the old airport in the western suburb of the Ethiopian capital at around 1730 local time (1430 GMT). The gunmen fled soon after the shooting. The Sudanese Ambassador to Ethiopia Uthman al-Sayyid yesterday visited the scene of the incident.

The motive of the killing was not known, although it came just a day after Ethiopia announced far-reaching sanctions against Sudan for its alleged failure to hand over to Ethiopia three suspects Addis Ababa said were involved in the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June. The sanctions include cutting down to four, from over 10, the diplomatic staff at the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa and the immediate suspension of Sudan Airways flights to Ethiopia. [passage omitted]

Minister Notes Ties to Egypt, Recent Changes

*NC0409122095 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Aug 95 p 9*

[Interview with Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, minister of state at the Presidential Office, by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Arafah] What is the significance of recent changes in Sudan—reintroducing the entry visa system, changing security leaders, and releasing political prisoners? Is this linked to the upcoming elections?

['Uthman] Although the abolition of the entry visa system, which had enabled Arab citizens to enter Sudan

without visas, had positive results—notably facilitating investment—it also had negative consequences, including the entry into Sudan of some Arab criminals like drug traffickers and so on. Some countries shipped those criminals to Sudan by plane; they included some terrorists like Carlos. This forced us to review our policies and to reinstitute entry visas. Consequently, we had to change our security force's leadership to implement the new security policies. For further control and scrutiny of foreigners upon entry and residence in Sudan, the leadership of security agencies was given to military men and to the Interior Ministry. The Interior Ministry became the direct supervisor of all the security services. An entry visa is required for Egyptians as part of this new policy.

['Arafah] What about the release of political prisoners?

['Uthman] The released prisoners include former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The decision should be seen from two angles: First, Sudanese law prevents preventive detention for more than three months without the approval of the National Security Council. Most of those released have now completed or almost completed this period. The Council had to meet to decide their fate. When it met, it took into consideration the security situation in the country, the interrogations of the detainees so far, and the fact that they had not been brought to trial. It was decided to release all of them immediately. Second, the release was part of the policy of openness the government is pursuing. These steps will be completed with the presidential and parliamentary elections and the provision of freedoms for the public and press in the broader sense. The release of prisoners was also linked to the government's call on all Sudanese at home and abroad to return to Sudan and help build a unified country.

['Arafah] Considering the recent crisis, what shape are Egyptian-Sudanese relations in now? Are contacts between you and Egypt totally broken off?

['Uthman] Our relations with Egypt are strategic; they are the most important aspect of our foreign policy. We are seeking to preserve them. These relations are a priority for us and we wish to maintain them, if only for the sake of our mutual interests. When we find it essential to review some policies in order to maintain these relations, we must do so. We had opened the doors of our country with entry without visas, but then we reinstituted visas because of our relations with Egypt and because of some other adverse effects. A deterioration in our relations with Egypt would only benefit the enemies of both countries. Therefore, we reviewed our policies and reinstituted visas in an attempt to put our relations back on their normal course. Many

Arab countries had asked us to require entry visas for their citizens, but we rejected that because opening our borders was a strategy to attract investment and it was also part of our Arab and Islamic orientation.

Relations with Egypt are not fully broken. We still have embassies and ambassadors. My presence here in Cairo—even though I am attending a conference—shows that. There are contacts between officials at various levels on containing the crisis and providing outlets for solutions, and the two ambassadors meet officials countries at all levels.

[Arafah] Egypt has reiterated that it has evidence of the presence of training camps (farms) where Egyptians opposing the government are being trained. What do you say about that?

[Uthman] We demanded that investigations be conducted when these accusations started. We said: The investigations of unfounded charges could be done calmly within the framework of joint committees. We are still prepared to move in this direction.

[Arafah] Is it possible that the Popular Friendship Council, of which you are the secretary, could play a role in improving relations between the two countries?

[Uthman] The basic task of the Popular Friendship Council is to develop the ties between the Sudanese people and the nations of the world, above all the Egyptian people. It has never been the council's intent to do the opposite. The council always tries to pave the way for official exchanges to promote and work out appropriate solutions and halt the deterioration in bilateral relations. The first to be harmed by this deterioration are the two peoples.

The council maintains continuous contacts in this regard and it hopes that they will bear fruit. Despite the level official relations have sunk to, the council organized a farewell party for the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum, Dr. Hasan Jad al-Haqq. The ceremony was attended by Egyptian Embassy staff members, Arab ambassadors and diplomats, and many Sudanese, including former ministers and specialists in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

During the ceremony, we underlined the importance of treating the relations between the two countries within a bilateral framework, limiting all problems, and restoring relations to normal. This ceremony received full coverage from all Sudanese media.

[Arafah] Does Sudan apply Islamic shari'ah in full now?

[Uthman] Islamic shari'ah is applied in full in Sudan's northern provinces, including the border areas. But it is not applied in the southern provinces.

[Arafah] Is the failure to resolve the war in southern Sudan due to a military incompetence or to foreign intervention? And when will Nimuli fall?

[Uthman] If we look at the situation in the south, we find that the rebellious movement no longer exists, except along a narrow strip on the border. The failure to bring the war into a decisive end is due to foreign intervention and foreign support for the rebellious movement. It is also linked to the political stances that the government often adopted, such as agreeing to a cease-fire in response to mediation efforts and encouraging the rebellious movement to enter into a dialogue and negotiations.

The township of Nimuli has become more important politically than strategically, because it is located in a narrow strip along the Sudanese-Ugandan border. This strip is of no value either strategically or in area. But it has moral and political significance. However, the government will sooner or later gain control of all its territory.

Al-Bashir Returns From Libya Visit, Comments

EA0309191295 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Republic, Lieutenant General PSC [Passed Staff College] 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, returned this evening after attending the 1 September revolution anniversary celebrations in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. First Vice President Major General Zubayr Muhammad Salih and a number of ministers welcomed him upon arrival.

In press statements on arrival, President Bashir says Sudan regrets the Ethiopian Government statement, as Sudan was planning to send a delegation to review the latest developments. Sudan is ready for cooperation as the attempt is regrettable [sentence as heard].

On the assassination of the two Sudanese in Addis Ababa, he said the Sudan is waiting for further details and investigations.

Bashir said he had discussed the promotion and development of relations with President Qadhdhafi. Commenting on the issue of those [Sudanese] who had been deported [from Libya], Bashir said they had no legitimate permits or papers to prove their entry. He directed all concerned to welcome them on arrival.

Army Garrison Reportedly Defects to Opposition

NC0409151895 Paris AFP in English
1450 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 4 (AFP) — A Sudanese army garrison posted along the border with Ethiopia has defected to the opposition, two London-based Arab papers reported on Monday [4 September].

AL-HAYAH and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT carried a statement from the Alliance Forces of the exiled Sudanese general 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid 'Uthman that the garrison in Karora province on the Red Sea had joined the opposition to Khartoum.

Captain Nabil Yahya, head of the garrison, "defected with 13 officers and soldiers along with their weapons and equipment and an all-terrain vehicle to a base of the Alliance Forces," the statement said.

The Alliance Forces is part of a military-political high committee formed in June during a conference in Eritrea of northern Sudanese opposition groups and southern rebels fighting a civil war against Khartoum.

Al-Mahdi Makes Public Speech Following Release

NC0109175795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1600 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 1 Sep (MENA)—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the Ummah Party, has condemned the failed assassination attempt on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June. He said the attempt to assassinate President Mubarak was an expression of the bankrupt thinking and demented morality of the terrorists.

Al-Mahdi urged any state or individual who has information on the whereabouts of the criminals who took part in the attempt to come forward with this information. He said: I congratulate my brother President Mubarak on his escape. He added: President Mubarak knows I was in detention when the incident took place.

Al-Mahdi asked the government of Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir to rectify human rights in Sudan and restore parties and individuals' property confiscated in 1989.

This came in a first public speech al-Sadiq al-Mahdi gave today in his grandfather's mosque, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mahdi, in the Widnabawi district of Omdurman before half a million citizens. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in this first public speech after being released, stressed his adherence to civilian struggle away from political violence.

Al-Mahdi asked the Sudanese Government to introduce the freedom of publication and press and said that Sudan has no alternative but democracy. He said democracy does not go against Islam. Al-Mahdi revealed that some of his friends asked him to use force to retrieve power from the current government but he refused to do so. He said: We use mental force for change; we do not use violence.

Al-Mahdi revealed that he was subjected to numerous forms of harassment during his detention, which lasted 101 days.

Al-Numayri To Announce Government-in-Exile

NC0209145795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will hold a news conference in Islamilia on the evening of Thursday [7 September] announcing the formation of a government-in-exile.

Numayri has stated that the interim Sudanese Government will include representatives of the Alliance of the Sudanese Working People. He added that this government will seek to remove the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime from power and replace it with rule by the people. It will seek to restore Sudan's rightful position among world states and end its association with terrorism in all forms.

According to the former president, the interim government will include a special ministry for integration and the unity of the Nile basin.

Television Reports Return of Opposition Figure

EA0209201495 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brigadier retired Ali Yusuf Jamil, an Opposition Alliance Forces' leader, returned Friday [1 September] after being disillusioned of the effectiveness of the opposition practices against their country, the Sudan.

He explained in press statements that he returned after it became obvious that the Asmara conference came to realize [the] objectives sought by outlaw [John] Garang, pointing out that splits among opponents are the best evidence of [the] failure of the Asmara conference. The recent partnership could not set the basis for democracy in the country, he added, describing it as resulting in drastic consequences.

Brig. Jamil praised [the] unyielding [character] of the armed forces and its efforts to liberate [the] homeland from the remnants of the outlaws.

Shiddu: No Cooperating With Amnesty International

*EA0309153295 Khartoum SUNA in English
1750 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 2nd September: The Advisory Council on Human Rights hailed during its regular meeting [word indistinct] the recent decisions releasing all political detainees and prisoners in the country as well as [the] setting-up of a committee to review cases of government employees who have been sent into retirement for public interest since 30th June, 1989.

Justice Minister and Attorney General 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu said in a press statement following the meeting that the council reviewed developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the atrocities committed against the Bosnian people by the Serbs, adding that the council is ready to cooperate with all human rights organizations inside and outside Sudan on means of realizing peace there.

Shiddu added that the council underscored the decision not to cooperate with Amnesty International, which he said was [word indistinct] organization.

Meanwhile, [the] rapporteur of the council, Ahmad al-Mufti, pointed out that the meeting also discussed preparations for the 50th session of the UN General Assembly.

Tunisia

Joint Committee With Iraq Begins Meetings

*JN0409190495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1705 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 4 Sep (INA)—Meetings of the eighth session of the Joint Iraqi-Tunisian Committee began here today. They will last four days.

The Iraqi delegation to the meetings is led by Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir while the Tunisian delegation is led by Trade Minister Slaheddine Ben M'Barek. The two sides will discuss ways to promote and enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation and activate the private sector role in this regard. They will also assess the achievements realized in light of the agreements formulated during the meetings of the previous session.

In the opening session, the Tunisian trade minister delivered a speech in which he stressed Tunisia's genuine endeavor to alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade as well as the work for expanding the fields of cooperation between both fraternal countries.

In a similar speech, Ahmad Husayn stressed the importance Iraq attaches to relations with Tunisia as well as the genuine desire to intensify and expand the fields of cooperation in a way that serves the interest of both fraternal peoples.

Technical committees stemming from the joint committee began their meetings after the opening session in order to discuss the topics listed on the agenda.

Ben Ali Receives French Interior Minister

*LD0209161995 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this morning at Carthage Palace French Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre, who expressed his happiness and pride to be given an opportunity to meet his excellency the president.

He added that he conveyed to the head of state a friendship message from French President Jacques Chirac and the French Government, and his wishes in establishing ideal cooperation between Tunisia and France. [passage omitted]

The meeting took place in the presence of the Tunisian interior minister.

Interior Minister Meets With Debre

*LD0209181095 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the framework of the visit to Tunisia by the French interior minister [Jean-Louis Debre], talks took place this morning at the Interior Ministry headquarters between Interior Minister Mohamed Jegham and his French counterpart.

The talks dealt with the progress of cooperation between the two ministries in the different spheres, be it those of a security nature, or those connected with territorial administration at regional and local levels.

Particular concentration was paid to the prospects and means of strengthening cooperation in the sphere of combating terrorism and crime in all their forms and exchanging information and training.

Following these talks the two ministers chaired an extended work session that included the members of the two countries' delegations, during which each one of them offered a presentation on the possibilities and means of strengthening cooperation between the two ministries within the scope of their competence. [passage omitted]

The French minister pointed out that bilateral and collective efforts exerted for strengthening security, stability, and peace around the Mediterranean were suitable means for achieving a comprehensive development and sought after progress for all the region's countries and peoples. [passage omitted]

President Makes 'Minor Reshuffle' in Government

*LD0109170595 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met this morning at Carthage Palace with Prime

Minister Hamed Karoui, who said after the meeting that the president had decided to introduce a minor reshuffle to the government formation by appointing Tawfik Baccar as minister of economic development, and Mounir Jaidene as secretary of state to the finance minister in charge of the budget.

His excellency also decided to appoint Brahim Riahi as president, managing director of Tunis assurance and re-insurance.

Bahrain

Omani Minister of State Visits Manama

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN0209174195 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1445 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 2 Sep (WAKH)—An official meeting was held in Manama this morning between Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister of Bahrain, and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in fraternal Oman, currently visiting Bahrain.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on many issues of mutual interest, particularly bilateral relations and ways to promote them. Both sides stressed their interest in bolstering bilateral cooperation in various fields in order to bring about welfare and prosperity to the peoples in both sisterly countries.

They also reviewed the current situation in the Gulf region, particularly the march of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. They noted that Oman will host the 16th session of the GCC Supreme Council in December. The two sides also discussed Arab and international political developments and ways to coordinate their positions on the Arab and international meetings and conferences scheduled to be held soon. [passage omitted]

Received by Amir

JN0209171895 Manama WAKH in English
1530 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, Sep 2 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received here today a written message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, dealing with brotherly bilateral relations and means of enhancing them in various fields.

The message was conveyed by Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah during his meeting with H.H. the amir and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah here today.

During the audience H.H. the amir and prime minister welcomed the Omani minister, praised the deep rooted bilateral brotherly relations and expressed their satisfaction over progress and development of joint cooperation between the two countries.

After the audience, the visiting minister said in a statement that he was honored by meeting H.H. the amir and the prime minister in which he delivered a message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman which comes

within the framework of consultations existing between the two countries on various issues of mutual concern, the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] and developments in the region, especially that H.H. the amir chairs the GCC current session.

The Omani minister expressed his pleasure over identical views between the two countries' wise leaderships on different issues mainly that related to promoting bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing GCC march as well as ways to settle issues facing the region. [passage omitted]

Confers With Prime Minister

JN0309174495 Muscat Radio Oman Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, in Manama today. The Omani minister is currently on a visit to Bahrain.

The GULF NEWS AGENCY said that during the meeting, the two sides discussed a number of issues related to relations between the two fraternal countries and means of promoting joint cooperation in all fields. They also reviewed Arab, Gulf, and international issues of joint interest.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0309205095 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1935 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 3 Sep (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Manama this evening, along with his accompanying delegation, concluding a two-day visit to Bahrain. During the visit, the Omani minister delivered a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Several Infiltration Attempts by Sea Foiled

NC0409124395 Paris AFP in English
1057 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Sept 4 (AFP)—Kuwait has foiled several infiltration attempts by sea, the interior minister told Monday's [4 September] AL-WATAN newspaper.

Shayh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah did not specify where the infiltrators came from, but said that there was "no need for concern."

Kuwait often reports infiltration attempts by Iranians and Iraqis, most of them seeking work in the oil rich Gulf country.

He also said there "has been no change" on the northern border with Iraq, and that Kuwait continues to monitor "closely" the situation there.

Some 1,400 U.S. soldiers began last Wednesday war games in the Kuwaiti desert in a bid to deter Iraq from launching any attack on the emirate. Kuwaiti troops are to join the manoeuvres by mid-September.

The 45-day exercises had been scheduled for October but were hastily brought forward after Washington reported unusual Iraqi troop movements.

Former Iraqi Industry Minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who defected on August 8 to Jordan, said Baghdad had set August 31 as a date to launch attacks on both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Council Supports NATO Action in Bosnia

*LD0309190695 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The council of ministers held its weekly meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and defense minister.

'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for council of ministers affairs and planning minister, said after the meeting that in the beginning the council was briefed on the message which his highness the amir, may God preserve him, received from His Excellency President Bill Clinton of the United States, which dealt with the existing strong cooperation relations between the two friendly countries and the means to develop them further.

He said: In accordance with the directive of his highness the amir, may God preserve him, to send urgent aid to Sierra Leone to combat the difficult economic conditions which it is enduring, the council decided to send a consignment by air, including foodstuffs and various relief materials, as assistance from the State of Kuwait to the friendly people of Sierra Leone. [passage omitted]

In embodiment of Kuwait's policy which aims at strengthening and widening its relations with fraternal and friendly countries, and proceeding from the desire to consolidate the representation of the State of Kuwait and its presence in the Pacific Ocean region, the council approved the establishment of diplomatic relations between the government of Kuwait and the government of the Marshall Islands.

The council also discussed political affairs and was briefed on a number of reports in connection with the most important developments in the Arab and international arenas.

While the council of ministers welcomed the military operations which NATO and the UN rapid reaction forces have carried out against Serb targets and positions, it stressed the need to adopt a tough and firm stance against the aggressive practices pursued by the Serb forces against the Muslims throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. It called for the joining of all international efforts to put an end to this humanitarian tragedy. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Papers on Clinton Motives for NATO Air Strikes

*LD0209140295 Riyadh SPA in English
1223 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Sept 2, SPA — Saudi Arabic-language newspapers today editorially commented on the current situation in Bosnia and the Islamic works conference in Moscow.

Referring to Saudi Arabia's role in Bosnia, which sides with the just cause and peace there, the Jeddah-based Al-Bilad noted the remarks made by Bosnian newspapers and other media organs which disclosed several facts and figures about events and developments in Bosnia including the kingdom's firm stand in support of the just cause of the Bosnian people and Riyadh's generous moral and material support.

For its part, the Jeddah-based Al-Madinah said the suspension of air strikes by NATO against the Serbs had not literally terminated their aggressive actions against the Bosnians as these Serbs oppressive activities do recur with some intervals. 'The language and style of the Serbs will not change. The use of force against the Serbs in this manner, could be an intentional one with an aim of aiding them with weak excuses.'

Al-Riyad asked whether NATO air strikes could be the price for division of Bosnia Herzegovina?

'These NATO air strikes on Serbs positions resemble the previous political stands, which had been already approved before the air attacks. It is in reality a light touch and will hardly affect the Serbs in their aggressive designs in Bosnia.'

The paper said the biggest achievement of these air strikes is to help boost the stand of U.S. President Bill Clinton in his foreign affairs policy and strengthen his position before congress for the upcoming elections in the United States.

Al-Jazirah, published in Riyadh, said the constant NATO air strikes, which were supported by Rapid Reaction Force heavy guns, has created a new situation in the Balkan zone. 'This will force the Serbs to show some flexibility and agree for peace negotiations with the American committee to solve the Balkan crisis.'

The Jeddah-based 'Ukaz wondered whether the West was awaiting an excuse to launch air strikes despite the Serbian brutality and aggression during the past years?

It said there are several factors and reasons which had forced the West to go ahead with the air strikes. One of the reasons could be the forthcoming American elections, which forced Bill Clinton to send U.S. envoys to the former Yugoslavia for a solution of the Bosnian crisis, the paper added. Dealing with the Islamic works conference in Moscow, the Makkah-based Al-Nadwah said this conference is one of the distinctive efforts, which was mounted to cope with the international changes and developments. It has also helped in opening doors for promoting coordination between Islamic bodies in the sphere of the Islamic call and faith.

Ulema Council Condemns Women's Conference in PRC

LD0209175995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Supreme Ulema Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued a statement on the 4th International Women's Conference. Here is the text of the statement:

Thanks be to God. Prayers and peace upon the messenger of God, the Prophet Muhammad. [passage omitted]

During its 9th extraordinary session convened in the town of Ta'if on Tuesday 3 Rabi al-Thani 1416 AH [29 August], the Supreme Ulema Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia perused the memorandum containing the agenda of the women's conference, which is scheduled to be held in Beijing, the capital of China. It pondered over the agenda of this conference and its objectives. It had also seen the contradictions in some of the items in this agenda and the deliberate oversight and clear distortion of words. The aim behind the agenda was to free the desires from all restrictions and pave the way for indulgences that are far removed from the rules of morals and God's innate nature with which he created man; contradicting his Shari'ah that governs his creations. [passage omitted]

It is a well-known fact that the Muslim woman does not face a problem with her place in society. She is a mother, a wife, a sister, or a daughter. The Islamic Shari'ah has guaranteed for her all rights. It protected

her against debasement, humiliation, and accorded her all the respect and protection, and has given her all the rights that suits her physical nature, which was bestowed on her by her creator. [passage omitted]

The agenda of the women's conference contained a clear clash with what God has ordained and contains a commitment to discard all that has been received from God if it contradicted what this conference advocates. In this, there is a clash with God's Shari'ah, destroying the family and antagonizing God and his messenger and all God's prophets. It was a clear permission to practice adultery and other vile deeds and it abandoned what is left of the nations' morals, spending vast amounts of money for the sake of this evil aim that is far removed from God's innate nature on which He created human beings. Also, it distances itself from the laws of God.

If some of the work of this conference is aimed at providing comfort and relief for some nations suffering from calamities or vanquished nations afflicted with injustice and aggression it would not be so unobjectionable. But this conference is no more than one in a series of previous and future meetings designed to destroy the sound social order or the social order that still maintains some of the noble values.

On the basis of what has been stated above, the Supreme Ulema Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls on Muslims, governments, peoples, ulemas, organizations, groups, and individuals to condemn this conference's program and to speak against it. It calls on all to rebuff the aims of the conference that had been referred to above because it dismisses what God and his messenger had denounced so that Muslims may not fall victim to these aims. God is the best leader to success. [passage omitted]

Conference Called 'Conspiracy'

*LD0409102595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0714 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Sep — The Saudi newspapers appeared this morning carrying the following main headlines. [passage omitted]

The AL-MADINAH newspaper tackled in its editorial the women conference in Beijing, describing it as a collision with the virtuous values established by Islam as a kind of mercy for man and to rescue him from darkness to the horizons of light and guidance.

It said that the Beijing document is a conspiracy against man and his virtuous values brought by Islam to rescue him from the state of ignorance [jahiliyah]. It stressed that the document's proposals are a clear return [riddah] to those ages in which principles were broken and

instincts prevailed. It is a new state of ignorance at the end of the 20th century.

The regrettable and painful thing about this confused return is that it hides behind the name of the United Nations, which has been lured by Western civilization to grant such a corrupt endeavor a flimsy legitimacy, though the international community has entrusted it with protecting justice and peace.

The newspaper concluded by saying that "the Beijing document is a stagnant endeavor, and that each of its advocates will soon realize the bad nature of the plant, the bad fruits, and the enormity of the recourse." [passage omitted]

Indian, Pakistani Executed for Smuggling Drugs

LD0409120995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry has today issued two statements on the execution of two foreign nationals in the city of Jeddah for smuggling drugs into Saudi Arabia.

Muhammad Bin Mustafa Ramadan, an Indian national, was arrested for smuggling a quantity of opium into Saudi Arabia. The aforementioned was found guilty of the crime, sentenced to death by the sword, and executed today in the city of Jeddah in Mecca region.

Wasim Jan Sed Khan, a Pakistani national, was arrested for smuggling a quantity of heroin into Saudi Arabia. The aforementioned was found guilty of the crime, sentenced to death by the sword, and executed today in the city of Jeddah in Mecca region.

Yemen

Authorities Detain Dozens of Islamic Jihad Members

*NC0409165295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1600 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 4 Sep (MENA)—A MENA correspondent in Sanaa has learned that the

Yemeni security authorities arrested dozens of members of the Islamic Jihad organization in the southern governorates in the past 48 hours. They were planning terrorist operations in the country. The Yemeni Interior Ministry has intensified its security campaigns in the past two months, pursuing outlaws and illegal residents in the country. Yemeni Interior Minister Husayn 'Arab said two days ago that Sanaa and Cairo will sign a security agreement in the next few days.

President Salih, King Fahd Discuss Committee Work

JN0409075395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night held a telephone conversation with his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. During the telephone conversation, the two leaders discussed the brotherly bilateral relations and the new Arab, Islamic, and international developments. The brother president expressed to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques his extreme satisfaction with the satisfactory and positive results of the meetings of the committees set up in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sisterly countries.

The two leaders stressed their eagerness to further boost the work of those committees to resolve the border problem between the two countries in the good and interest of the two brotherly and neighborly peoples.

Ekeus: Iraqi Biological Arms 'Fully Developed'

AU0509084095 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
4 Sep 95 pp 144-146

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, head of the special UN commission for disarmament in Iraq, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Tested Biological Weapons on Monkeys"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Ekeus, Iraq's dictator Saddam Husayn not only wanted to establish nuclear and chemical arsenals, but he also seems to have had biological weapons developed. It was only after the defection of his son-in-law Husayn Kamil Hasan, who was in charge of Iraq's entire arms program, that the enormous extent of this largely unknown project emerged. Did that also come as a surprise to you, although you have undertaken frequent inspection visits to Iraq?

[Ekeus] Yes. I had long talks with Kamil in Amman. The documents that he brought along exceeded anything that we knew or suspected about the biological weapons of the regime in Baghdad. What this Iraqi Albert Speer has disclosed proves that the biological weapons have long been produced. The Iraqi Government was trying to tell us that it only imported some 50 kg of fluid culture medium for certain bacteria for medical purposes, but in reality, they imported a thousand times that amount.

[DER SPIEGEL] How did the Iraqis react to that disclosure?

[Ekeus] The official explanation was quite amusing: They had purchased too much by mistake. I got a similarly strange explanation when I asked about a highly secured factory that was equipped with striking special ventilators. They produce animal fodder there, I was told.

[DER SPIEGEL] How dangerous were — or are — Saddam's weapons?

[Ekeus] Without wanting to anticipate the examination of our entire material, for me it is certain that Iraq's biological weapons were fully developed. Their use, which seems to have been possible at any time, would have killed millions of people.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can Iraq's biological weapons be compared to the great powers' arsenals?

[Ekeus] These weapons seem to have been Baghdad's last trump card and could have been fired immediately — which is really unique. Bombs with biologically effective material were already stationed at military air bases and rocket launching sites. That is an absolute novelty — worldwide.

[DER SPIEGEL] When did Iraq start developing its biological weapons?

[Ekeus] It sounds like mockery: They started their armament program, which also included the use of anthrax viruses and the bacterial substance of botulin, on 1 December 1990; that is exactly two days after the United Nations adopted a resolution issuing an ultimatum to the regime in Baghdad that ordered them to withdraw from occupied Kuwait and threatened a military confrontation if it did not. What shocks me in retrospect is the realization that the world was facing an enormous catastrophe, of which we did not even have a clue. Such a situation must be unique in the history of mankind.

[DER SPIEGEL] Has Iraq tested its biological weapons?

[Ekeus] Yes. The Iraqis tested the effects of their biological weapons in the Muthanna region, not far from the border with Iran.

[DER SPIEGEL] On humans?

[Ekeus] As far as I know they tested on big mammals — sheep and monkeys.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you think that the biological weapons and the substances required for their production will be destroyed now?

[Ekeus] I cannot answer that question yet. It is very difficult to guarantee the destruction of all existing supplies. The highly dangerous substances can be stored for years, and only a short while ago the Iraqis assured us solemnly that they do not have any biological weapons.

[DER SPIEGEL] After all, the Iraqi leadership now seems to offer you insight into its arms projects.

[Ekeus] That is right. The Iraqis are trying to tell us that a gigantic collection of documents, which they only made available to us a few days ago, was put together by the defected Husayn Kamil and kept secret from us.

[DER SPIEGEL] That sounds like another bad excuse.

[Ekeus] When I wanted to leave Iraq on board a German Luftwaffe transport aircraft from the Habbaniya military air base at about 1500 on 20 August, a high-ranking Iraqi officer asked me to postpone my departure for a couple of hours. I was taken to a farm that belonged to General Husayn Kamil, 50 minutes' drive south from Baghdad. There, the military showed me eight containers, each the size of a room, and 148 metal boxes full of documents, which were stored in two locked poultry brooding buildings. Meanwhile, we have secured all the documents.

[DER SPIEGEL] Although you were able to move about with complete freedom, you were hunting these documents like a phantom for years...

[Ekeus, interrupting] ...because the Iraqis did not hide this material in one particular place, but took it from one store room to the next to make our work more difficult.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you think now that the biological weapons have been unmasked, Iraq's whole arsenal of major secret weapons has been laid open?

[Ekeus] I cannot judge that yet. The documents will take very long to evaluate, maybe years.

[DER SPIEGEL] On what will you be focussing your particular attention now?

[Ekeus] I want to know where and how the chemical and biological weapons have been destroyed. I also have to get some information on the exact state of its missile development. It is a fact now that Iraq continued its arms programs after the Gulf war.

Iraq was years off a nuclear warhead, but it is almost certain that the military intended to equip its rockets with nuclear warheads.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will you hand a list of German companies that have violated the arms embargo to Chancellor Helmut Kohl during your visit to Bonn?

[Ekeus] No. In spite of all the information we now have we will not have any reliable information on firms violating the boycott — which could include companies from almost all industrial states — until we have examined the new material. I will ask Bonn to strengthen the excellent German helicopter crew, which has formed the backbone of our control work in Iraq. I would also welcome more chemical and missile specialists from Germany.

[DER SPIEGEL] You have to present a report to the UN Security Council on 11 October. Will you recommend the lifting of the UN sanctions?

[Ekeus] The suspicion that Iraq is still concealing a great deal cannot be dismissed lightly. If you had seen the officers, who had denied everything until recently, admit the existence of biological weapons without blushing, without feeling any remorse, you would understand why many in the United Nations still have doubts about Iraq's credibility.

'Secret Weapon' Uncovered

MS0509102695 London *INDEPENDENT* in English
5 Sep 95 p 11

[Report by Patrick Cockburn: "Iraq's Germ War Secrets Found at Farm"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — A chicken farm outside Baghdad was the unlikely hiding-place for 147 boxes of documents on Iraq's germ-warfare programme which United Nations inspectors had long wanted to find.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN special commission in charge of destruction of Iraq's most lethal weapons, said the papers proved that biological warfare, not the nuclear bomb, was Iraq's "secret weapon" which it considered using during the Gulf war in 1991.

The way the UN finally learnt about Iraq's successful development of strains of anthrax and botulinum was equally peculiar. Mr Ekeus was on his way to Baghdad airport on 20 August when he and his advisers were diverted to a farm which Iraqi officials said was owned by Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil, the son-in-law of Saddam Husayn and head of Iraqi military procurement, who had fled to Jordan on 8 August. The UN inspectors noticed that the documents, computer disks and videos looked surprisingly clean, given the condition of the chicken farm. One of the UN team who spoke Arabic talked to a gardener at the farm. "The special forces brought them here on 10 August," he said, undermining the Iraqi official line that Gen Husayn Kamil was personally responsible for concealing the programme for biological-warfare.

The significance of what Mr Ekeus discovered has been largely masked since by the melodrama of the flight of President Saddam's two sons-in-law. Gen Husayn Kamil also muddied the waters by claiming — untruthfully, UN officials now believe — that Iraq was within months of developing a nuclear device.

But the chicken-farm documents show that Iraq had not only successfully developed biological-warfare agents but had loaded them into 191 bombs, artillery shells and missiles which were ready to be fired. In contacts before the war, the US threatened Iraq with retaliation if it used chemical or biological weapons — a threat which, it seems, Iraq took seriously.

"These were the papers the UN had been chasing around for years," said a West European diplomat in Amman.

The discovery ensures sanctions on Iraq will continue into next year as the UN analyses the documents. Madeleine Albright, the US ambassador to the UN, said the discovery of the programme, after five years

of denials by Iraq that it even existed showed how little Baghdad was to be trusted.

The research into bacteriological-warfare agents appeared to have begun in 1988 at Salman Pak, an hour's drive from Baghdad. Placing of the biological warfare agents in weapons was carried through at al-Hakim, where 50 bombs were filled with the bacterium and then anthrax and 100 bombs with botulinum. The same toxins — together with aflatoxin, which causes cancer, were put in missile warheads capable of reaching Saudi Arabia and Israel.

"It was a very dangerous situation," Mr Ekeus said. "We suspected they were working on biological weapons but not the enormous force and dynamism (of the programme)."

Report of Saddam Requesting Political Asylum Denied

NC0309183895 *Paris AFP in English*
1747 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 3 (AFP) — Iraq's Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki denied Sunday [3 September] a U.S. news report that he went to Mauritania seeking to secure political asylum for Saddam Husayn.

"The report is part of a disinformation campaign orchestrated by the American administration against Iraq," al-Maliki told AFP. "Washington knows that it will only meet failure."

U.S. News and World Report said in its latest edition that the Iraqi leader engaged in negotiations with Mauritania to secure political asylum for himself and his entourage.

The news magazine said Mauritania's President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya reacted favorably to the question of asylum for Saddam Husayn in the North African country.

The magazine, citing anonymous intelligence sources in Mauritania, said al-Maliki flew to the North African country in July to meet with the Mauritanian leader.

Officials in Mauritania also denied the magazine report, saying that al-Maliki had met with President Taya on July 12 but only to discuss the situation in Iraq, bilateral relations and Arab solidarity.

Mauritania supported Saddam Husayn after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990 and the two countries have maintained strong ties.

There have been questions about the stability of the regime in Iraq since two high-ranking Iraqi officials,

both of them sons-in-law of Husayn, defected last month to Jordan.

Saddam Reportedly Suffering From 'Incurable Disease'

JN0209150295 *(Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic* 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Party sources close to the disintegrating Saddam family has said that the tyrant Saddam is suffering from an incurable disease and was admitted to the hospital after his sons-in-law and daughters fled to Amman on 8 August. The disease almost killed him but he was saved by the intervention of specialists during the current circumstances, which are the most threatening to his regime.

Reports say that the seriousness of criminal Saddam's disease was the cause of the escalation of differences and struggle within the ruling family as to who would succeed him as head of state after he perishes.

The tyrant had been paving the way for his idiot son 'Udayy to succeed him. 'Udayy was given large-scale powers in numerous state departments. This caused resentment among many family members, including his son-in-law Husayn Kamil, who aspired to succeed his uncle after he perishes.

It is noteworthy that informed sources in the past said that Saddam suffered from attacks of unconsciousness that lasted from a few moments to a few minutes and that specialists were summoned from Britain, Germany, and the Netherlands when his private doctors failed to cure him. The latest information, however, says that his condition has become more serious than it was last year.

Saddam Said To Fire, Arrest 3 Cabinet Ministers

JN0209163095 *(Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic* 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The frustrated Baghdad ruler has recently dismissed three ministers and placed them under house arrest. [Words indistinct] the state of collapse, which is about to undermine the structure of the exhausted country. Sources that reported the news said that the ministers are: Ahmad Murtada, minister of transport and telecommunications; Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, minister of higher education; and Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir, minister of irrigation. [Words indistinct] interrogators for several hours by a special committee formed to protect Saddam. [Words indistinct] with those who have ties with the defecting son-in-law, Husayn Kamil.

The same sources said that the tyrant intends to change his ambassador in Amman, noting that he recently ordered the dispatch to Jordan of Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid

al-Paysal, the Foreign Ministry's first under secretary, to replace [words indistinct] Nuri al-Wayyis al-Tikriti.

More on Arrests

NC0309160995 *Paris AFP in English*
1528 GMT 03 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sept 3 (AFP) — Iraqi Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir has been arrested because of his ties to defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan, an opposition group said Sunday [3 September].

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), said al-Qasir was among about 100 military and political officials arrested for their links with Hasan who defected to Jordan on August 8.

Among the others were former army chief-of-staff General Rashid al-Tikriti and former oil minister Safa' Hadi Jawad, added SAIRI, a Tehran-based Shiite Moslem group, in a statement received here.

It said 60 percent of staff at the military industrialisation organisation were arrested in a purge ordered by President Saddam Husayn. Hasan, who is also a son-in-law of the Iraqi leader, used to head the body.

Saddam has also entrusted his youngest son Qusayy with security in Baghdad, SAIRI said, adding he had taken charge of "all security services."

Protection around government buildings in the capital "especially the defence ministry, security services, telephone offices and the national assembly" had also been boosted, it added.

So far Qusayy was believed to have been in charge of his father's close protection.

On Tuesday the Iraqi National Congress opposition coalition said Saddam had ordered all the property of his eldest son, 'Udayy, to be seized after increased criticisms against him from other members of the ruling family.

Saddam Said To Order Seizure of 'Udayy's Assets

NC0209074795 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0715 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 2 Sep (MENA)—The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, which is affiliated to the opposition Unified Iraqi National Congress, has reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has ordered the expropriation of all property owned by his eldest son 'Udayy. The measure has been taken in response to the increasing criticism of 'Udayy by prominent members of the ruling al-Tikriti family due to his excesses, which have become intolerable.

The Iraqi opposition's statement, published in today's issue of AL-HAYAH, adds that Saddam has set up a committee chaired by his second son Qusayy, who is in charge of the security and intelligence services, to supervise the seizure of 'Udayy's assets. It has been learned that these assets include a transportation company and another for food processing. Employees at these two companies have been asked not to report back to duty and guards have been placed at the two companies' installations.

'Udayy's Powers Reportedly Reduced; Qusayy's Increased

JN0309161695 *(Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic* 1215 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The falling tyrant has carried out a number of measures to patch up holes within the ruling family with the aim of bringing his shaky regime under control. The tyrant has reduced the activities of his eldest son 'Udayy and has limited his powers which the tyrant believes was the cause of the exacerbating strife in the family. Part of these powers have been given to his younger son, Qusayy.

Reports reaching us say that Qusayy has been charged with the so-called security and protection of the capital Baghdad. He was also charged with full supervision of all repressive and party organs, the emergency forces, the local police, and every vital center of the regime.

Reports say that the tyrant has imposed tight security measures around ministries buildings, the security and intelligence departments, the communications centers in al-Rashid street, the so called National Assembly building, the Defense Ministry building in Bab al-Mu'azzam, and the main banks in the al-Rashid and al-Nahr streets in Baghdad. Dozens of armed men are now deployed around these buildings and centers. All citizens who approach these sensitive buildings are searched and questioned.

Saddam Said Solving 'Udayy-Wathan Dispute

JN0209120095 *Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic*
2 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Having made sure that he will not face foreign military action and having put his domestic situation in order, President Saddam Husayn is now trying to overcome a personal problem created by his close relatives. The problem is the outcome of the defection of two of his daughters and their husbands to Jordan, which caused a security threat and emotional shock to the president. Another problem has to do with the dispute between Saddam's eldest son, 'Udayy, and Saddam's half brother, Wathan.

The Iraqi president ascertained two things. First, that all those who contacted his son-in-law, Husayn Kamil al-Majid, did not heed al-Majid's advice and that the United States refused to strike at the targets al-Majid proposed to kill Saddam. Second, that all sides agree that Iraq's territorial integrity must be maintained. Should this situation change, many serious problems will emerge inside Iraq and in the countries surrounding it. Minorities in these countries could rise any minute and stage a rebellion.

The Iraqi president is trying to redress the dispute between 'Udayy and Watban. This dispute alarmed many of those who are close to the head of state. Some of them chose to escape fearing the conduct of the president's son, whose grip on power is getting tighter. In this context, the Iraqi president met with Numayr Bin- Dahham for two hours to learn the details of the shooting of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan. Numayr is the son of Saddam's eldest brother, who passed away several years ago.

Numayr was among those who were invited to the evening party, which 'Udayy stormed and indiscriminately shot at those attending. 'Udayy's uncle Watban and cousin Ahmad were wounded and a number of gypsies, who were performing at the party in one of Baghdad's islands, were killed.

Before the Iraqi president was able to end this family problem, which affected the ruling circle around him — particularly since his wounded brother enjoyed a good reputation in the popular circles since he was interior minister — a tragedy hit his wife, Mrs. Sajidah Khayrallah Talfah. The escape of her two daughters with their husbands affected her health condition and she felt severe pain in one of her eyes, resulting in her losing her eyesight. Iraqi doctors tried to treat her eye, but with no success, so, a well-known Jordanian ophthalmologist was summoned to Baghdad to treat the eye of the president's wife.

The illness of the president's wife came after the president regained tranquility and after he was reassured that General Husayn Kamil's defection will not threaten him personally as some predicted earlier.

It has become clear that Gen. Kamil will reside in Saudi Arabia. He secretly visited Saudi Arabia last week and he met with a number of officials.

The chief of Saudi Intelligence visited Amman immediately following Kamil's arrival and met with him. Also, Fahd al-Fahd, chief of Kuwaiti Intelligence visited Amman secretly during the same period. However, all these moves did not constitute a military threat to the Iraqi president.

Army Colonel Reportedly Defects to Kurdish Area
NC0209154395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1530 yesterday, Staff Colonel Yunus Khalf Khudayr al-Khafaji, commander of the 2d regiment of the 116th Infantry Brigade, joined the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan forces in (Tall Sa'dawa) in the (Kani Qirdala) area near the city of Irbil.

Opposition Radio on Whereabouts of Command Members

JN0109145195 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Sep 95

[From the weekly "Iraq's News File" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to the Iraqi regime have confirmed the disappearance of the despicable 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur al-'Ani, member of the so-called Iraq Command, following wounds he sustained at a ceremony recently held on the 8 August anniversary [Great Victory Day], as well as the disappearance of the despicable Sa'di Mahdi Salih, also member of the so-called Iraq Command and speaker of the National Assembly, and that they did not attend more than one session of the Iraq Command, which is chaired by the defeated despot.

Former Senior Aides Said To Regain Prominence

NC0309150395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reliable Baghdad sources, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Saddam Husayn's cousin and member of the Ba'th Party's Regional Command; and Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, Saddam's half brother and former interior minister, will be appointed to prominent posts in the ruling party and the government in the next few days. This is an attempt by Saddam to improve the fortunes of the ruling family in the wake of the damages caused by Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil and his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil's defections to Jordan and their declared opposition to the regime, as well as their plans to overthrow it.

The sources reported that 'Ali Hasan al-Majid's military rank of staff general has been restored. The rank was taken away from him when he was deposed as defense minister in July and relegated to a party post as director of the labor office.

The sources said 'Ali Hasan al-Majid is now likely to assume the post of chairman of the Ba'th Party Military Bureau instead of 'Izzat al-Duri, who is likely to lose all his posts in due time.

Watban is likely to be appointed to a senior post at the Presidential Office.

Barzan al-Tikriti Criticizes Saddam Policy, 'Udayy
NC0209152495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People
in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Barzan al-Tikriti made a statement yesterday in which he attacked 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and said that 'Udayy is not qualified to do any job. He also criticized Saddam's policy in the first public statement he made on this subject.

In another development, arrivals from Baghdad said that 'Udayy has started to reappear again after many leading figures in the regime and the party mediated to lift the house arrest imposed on him. For his approval of this step, Saddam Husayn set the condition that 'Udayy should be banned from interfering with officials and from performing any tasks that could harm officials of the regime. Another condition set by Saddam is that 'Udayy should not be allowed to leave Iraq via Jordan.

Barzan's Wife Said To Depart for Geneva Via Amman

JN0209143195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An authoritative Jordanian source has said that the wife of Barzan al-Tikriti, President Saddam Husayn's half-brother, arrived in Amman today and later left for Geneva to meet with her husband, who is Iraq's representative to the United Nations there.

Opposition To Hear Husayn Kamil 'Message' in London

NC0309211695 Paris AFP in English
2045 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, Sept 3 (AFP) — Iraqi opposition groups are to meet in London to hear the views of Iraqi General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who defected last month and called for the toppling of the Baghdad government, an official said Sunday [3 September].

Mish'an al-Juburi, representing a powerful tribe that was once a pillar of the Iraqi government, told AFP that Hasan would not be present at the September 9 meeting but would send a recorded message "to explain his views on the future of Iraq."

Hasan, architect of Iraq's advanced weapons programs and Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, "believes that a transition period is necessary to establish a democratic

and pluralistic society in Iraq," al-Juburi said in a telephone interview from London.

The Iraqi general "supports a constitution that guarantees the rights of minorities and ethnic groups, and the election of a parliament that would decide the procedure for electing a head of state," al-Juburi added.

Hasan, who defected to Jordan on August 8, believes that courts must be independent and the army a "symbol of national unity and not the instrument of a single party under the orders of a dictator."

Al-Juburi, who left Iraq in 1990 and was accused of mounting an attempt by his tribe earlier that year to topple the Iraqi president, said he had been in contact with Hasan "several times."

"I call on the different opposition groups to listen to General Hasan. If they have something better to offer, they should," Al-Juburi said.

Several members of the opposition, including the Iraqi National Congress, have been suspicious of Hasan because of his involvement with the Baghdad government and for not having a political program.

Al-Juburi said however that it was time "to open a new page instead of seeking vengeance."

The former head of Iraq's intelligence services, General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, who defected in 1994, told AFP he supported the meeting and Hasan's views.

Defector To Visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar

JN0209083395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Sep 95
p 29

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-RA'Y has learned from diplomatic Arab sources that General Husayn Kamil Hasan will visit Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait, and the State of Qatar.

The sources told AL-RA'Y that no date has been set for the tour but that the three countries have agreed in principle to receive him.

Defector Said Not To Approach London Exile Groups

NC0409132795 Paris AFP in English
1220 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Sept 4 (AFP) — Iraqi defectors on Monday [4 September] denied that former industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan planned to put his views to a meeting of opposition groups in London.

Hasan, who fled to Jordan on August 8, is "not involved" in the meeting on Saturday and "will not present his political programme there," said his cousin 'Izz-al-Din Muhammad Hasan, who defected with him.

Mishan Juburi, representing a powerful tribe that was once a pillar of the Iraqi government, told AFP earlier that Hasan would send a recorded message to the meeting "to explain his views on the future of Iraq."

Juburi said Hasan wanted to see a democratic and pluralistic society in Iraq with respect for the rights of minorities and ethnic groups.

But 'Izz-al-Din Muhammad said: "There will be no taped message from General Hasan."

The general has "balanced relations with the Iraqi opposition but nobody can speak for him," he said. He "carries out individual contacts himself with the organisations and figures he wants to talk to."

Hasan defected to Amman with his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam Husayn, along with a group of around 15 relatives and acquaintances.

Several members of the opposition, including the Iraqi National Congress, have been suspicious of Hasan — the mastermind of Iraq's advanced weapons programmes — because of his involvement with the Baghdad government and for not having a political program.

Russian Tank Contract Said Signed by Husayn Kamil

MM0509101995 *London AL-HAYAH in Arabic*
5 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat and Iskandar al-Dik: "Iraq Signs Contract To Purchase 400 Russian Tanks"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Bonn — The command of the U.S. 5th Fleet in the Gulf announced yesterday that 12 ships had moved war equipment to the region as a preventive measure following the tension with Baghdad, which has called for a "tactical" alliance with Tehran to confront the "Great Satan." While the United Nations and Germany stressed that the possibility of lifting the embargo on Iraq is "very very meager."

Meanwhile, Western diplomatic sources in Amman revealed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that Iraq recently signed a contract to purchase 400 Russian tanks worth more than \$2 billion, provided the deal is implemented after the economic embargo imposed on Iraq has been lifted. The sources added that Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, who defected to Jordan less than a month ago, signed the contract with Russian officials during a

visit to Moscow some two months before his flight from Iraq.

The sources did not reveal the type of tanks Iraq intends to purchase at the cost of more than \$2 billion, according to the same sources. Diplomatic circles have said that Baghdad's decision to conclude the Russian tanks deal "is tantamount to a strong stimulus for Moscow" to intensify its efforts to secure the lifting of the embargo on Iraq.

As is known, Husayn Kamil held the posts of industry minister and chairman of the Military Industrialization Organization. He was also entrusted with the Iraqi weapons file. [passage omitted]

Saddam Reportedly Offers Jordan Cheaper Oil

JN0409172095 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic* 1410 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the faltering Baghdad regime recently sent a letter to the Jordanian Government calling on it to continue to purchase Iraqi oil at lower prices than in the past. This was revealed by official and authorized Jordanian sources. The sources added that Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy, will visit Baghdad next week to discuss this issue with Saddam regime officials and to specify the quantities that will be sold to Jordan in the future.

The visit was postponed last week in light of the recent development in Jordan's position toward the Baghdad ruler's foolish policy. This miserable offer by defeated Saddam is part of his attempts to maintain his sole trade outlet, which is about to be closed in his face after Jordan has received promises of oil supplies from sources other than Iraq.

'First Revenge Attempt' Said Thwarted by Jordan

NC0209154195 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic* 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian security forces have thwarted the first revenge attempt by Saddam Husayn's regime against Jordan, which granted the tyrant of Baghdad's two sons-in-law and two daughters political asylum. A few days ago, the Jordanian security organs arrested a number of Iraqi [word indistinct] who were driving two [word indistinct] cars in the al-Ruwayshid border area. The two cars had arrived from Iraq. Initial investigations revealed a scheme by the regime to blow up these two cars in the al-Hashimiyah Square and Ra's al-'Ayn area, which are always crowded with passers-by and located in the center of the Jordanian capital, Amman. These two areas are the shopping center of Amman.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH said that 'Ali Hasan al-Majid secretly visited the Jordanian capital a few days ago and tried to deny that the regime was behind this incident. He claimed that other parties outside the framework of the party and the government were behind this incident in order to ruin relations between the two sides.

In another development, a decision has been taken to postpone the visit of Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, to Baghdad. The minister was to strike a new deal with the ruling regime regarding oil supplies to Jordan after the previous contract ended.

The United States asked Jordan after General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid defected not to import Iraqi oil in order to increase pressure on the ruling regime until it is toppled. The United States said that it will convince a number of countries in the region to export oil to Jordan instead.

Iraqis in Iran Call For Jihad To Topple Saddam
NC0309160595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi masses have called on his eminence ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, to open the door for volunteers for jihad to deal a coup de grace to Saddam's crumbling regime and deny enemies the opportunity to install a replacement that suits their own interests.

Al-Hakim received a cable from the Iraqi masses in a refugee camp in the Khuzestan Governorate. The cable said: O mujahid leader: These days we are witnessing the collapse of the bloody regime which dominated the courageous Iraqi people. We are also witnessing a headlong rush by the forces of evil and aggression represented by the United States and its agents to take advantage of the opportunity and pounce on Saddam's rotten regime to install a replacement that suits U.S. interests.

The cable added: From our own experience and out of belief in your struggle, patience, foresight, and deep concern for the sons of our people and dear homeland, we ask you to forge ahead with firm steps and we and all zealots of the great people are behind you. We renew the pledge we made to God almighty and to our pure martyrs to be the loyal soldiers of Islam and the Islamic leadership.

The cable called on his eminence al-Hakim to open the door to volunteers for jihad to deal a coup de grace

to the rotten aggressive regime and confront all plots concocted by enemies and criminals.

Opposition Meeting Sets Out Principles, Objectives
MM0109154795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Sep 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "London: Iraqi Opposition Meeting Calls For Tightening the Noose of Isolation Around the Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — A meeting bringing together 18 Iraqi opposition organizations and attended by some 50 opposition leaders said that the Iraqi regime "has been dealt a painful blow as a result of the defection of some of the individuals around (President) Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi opposition must develop and deepen this blow. It must also mobilize efforts to prevent the regime from escaping its outcome." This is a reference to the defection to Jordan on 8 August of General Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi president's son-in-law.

The meeting, which was held in London, issued a statement the day before yesterday, called for "tightening the noose of isolation" around the regime of President Saddam Husayn.

The participants stressed "the need to develop field action inside the homeland until the regime is gotten rid of completely." The participants also stressed the need to adhere to the program of "a democratic, constitutional alternative to the current regime. And to refer to the people to determine the shape of the future regime, which should guarantee pluralism, the peaceful rotation of power, and the judiciary's independence. It should also guarantee Iraqis' rights and respect their holy sites and the right to partisan and professional organization. And it should protect the Kurdish people's legitimate rights, will, and choices and guarantee the legitimate rights of the other nationalities and minorities and the various groups of the Iraqi people."

The participants paid special attention to the unification of the opposition forces' position and "the need to coordinate and coordinate among themselves to deal with current and potential events and developments. This is why they have left the door open to further meetings and consultations to work sincerely to clear the air among their ranks."

Participants expressed their satisfaction at "the end of the regrettable state of war in Iraqi Kurdistan and the impetus this is going to give to the possibility of toppling the regime and its pillars as a prelude to ending the predicament of the people and the homeland."

The participants warned of "attempts to circumvent the Iraqi people's struggle and sacrifices through a formal change in the ruling establishment while retaining its essence and basic political features."

The participants welcomed "the new Jordanian position" and called on the Arab states, the states in the region, the world, and world public opinion establishments "to support the Iraqi people in their struggle to get rid of dictatorship and to establish a state of justice, law, freedom, and equality."

The participants renewed their appeal to those opposed to dictatorship inside Iraq and inside and outside the ruling establishment "to rise up against the regime and to step up their rejection of it." The participants also stressed the need to "maintain the growing people's resistance and armed resistance inside the country by all means in order to reactivate the internal factor, on the grounds that it is the crucial factor in inflicting the final defeat on the regime."

The organizations that participated in the meeting are: the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Iraqi National Accord, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Iraqi Communist Party, the Iraqi Socialist Party, the Iraqi Democratic National Accord Grouping, the Iraqi National Reform Movement, the Islamic Cadres Movement, the Iraqi Independent Organization, the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan, the Turkmen Democratic Movement, the Assyrian Democratic Movement, the Iraqi Democratic Grouping, the Iraqi Democrats Union, the Iraqi Democratic Islamic Grouping, the Committee for Coordinating Iraqi Democratic Tendency Forces in Britain, the Democratic Pan-Arab Grouping, and the World Assyrian Union.

Among the figures who took part in the meeting are: Dr. Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, Dr. Mahmud 'Uthman, Shaykh Husayn al-Sha'lan, Nuri Talabani, 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Duri, Dr. Rahim 'Ajinah, Isma'il al-Qadiri, Sami Faraj, Sa'd 'Abd-al-Razzaq, Muhammad Hamawandi, Majid al-Hiti, Nabil Yasin, Riyad al-Zuhayri, and 'Ali Salih.

Opposition Figures Meet in Vienna, Advocate Change

NC0409132895 Paris AFP in English
1219 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Sept 4 (AFP) — Iraqi opponents including three former ministers called on politicians and army chiefs to take advantage of internal upheaval in Baghdad to bring about a peaceful change in government.

The Iraqi Consultative Committee said in a statement that leading Iraqi and Arab figures met in Vienna at the weekend to discuss developments in Baghdad following the August 8 defection to Jordan of two top officials.

The group's statement was signed by former foreign minister 'Adnan Bajaji, former industry minister 'Adib al-Jadir and 'Abd-al- Ghani al-Dali, ex-agriculture minister.

The former director general of the Iraqi oil ministry, Fadil al- Jalabi, also signed.

They described as a "great turning point" the defections of General Husayn Kamil Hasan, ex-industry minister, his brother and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam Husayn.

"They reveal for the first time the contradictions at the heart of the regime as a prelude to its collapse," the opposition group said.

"For members of the (ruling) Ba'th party and the Armed Forces they represent a chance to take part in a national effort to bring about peaceful change which would save the country from bloodshed and foreign interference."

The statement called for a democratic, multi-party system in Iraq and a government which put an end to political oppression, and respected its international commitments and the rights of Kurds.

It also urged measures to boost Iraq's economy, which has been crippled by five years of UN sanctions, and to improve relations with its neighbours "in order to free Iraq from the fall-out of the (1980-1988) war with Iran and the invasion of Kuwait" in 1990.

Al-Sahhaf Praises al-Asad Remarks on Defection

JN0509104895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1005 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf asserted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's statements in Cairo on 3 September are appreciated.

Commenting on President Hafiz al-Asad's statements, the foreign minister told INA that President Hafiz al-Asad dealt with the issue of traitor Husayn Kamil and the impact of his defection on the situation in Iraq in an objective and balanced manner. President al-Asad also noted other motives behind the tendentious campaign concerning this traitor and stated that there are always those who fabricate additional issues to increase tension among Arab countries.

The foreign minister said: We welcome any stand that seeks objectivity and balance in dealing with events and

that encourages the clearing of the atmosphere among Arab countries.

He stressed that Iraq is ready to build new relations with all Arab countries without exception for the sake of serving the Arab nation's higher interests. It is also ready to cooperate in sharing the burden of construction and confronting the crucial challenges facing all Arabs in their various countries.

Paper Urges Rejection of U.S. Stand on Regime

*JN0209095395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0845 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper demanded that the United Nations and the Arab League adopt serious stands, not submit to U.S. influence and control, and acknowledge Iraq's implementation of all its obligations to have the blockade lifted.

In an editorial today in AL-JUMHURIYAH under the headline, "In Light of Official U.S. Confession About Interference in Iraq's Affairs, In Whose Court Is the Ball Now?" the newspaper says: The United Nations, represented by its secretary general, is required to prove that it is not under U.S. influence by adopting a stand in light of the new developments. These developments show that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations. If, however, the United Nations keeps silent and does not express an independent view, then it will confirm a worldwide notion that it is a tool in the hands of the United States.

The newspaper urges the United Nations and the Arab League to condemn the recent U.S. statements, which amount to flagrant interference in the affairs of an independent state and a founding member of these two organizations. The Arab League, which took part in mobilizing armies against Iraq on the pretext of "defending the sovereignty of Kuwait" should prove that it is not a follower of anyone, that it does not submit to the influence of any Arab or foreign side, and that it is the League of all Arab nations. Therefore, the Arab League should condemn the U.S. announcement about its desire to change the regime in Iraq.

The newspaper wonders what the Arab League will do. Will the secretary general disregard what is happening? If he does this, then he will provide conclusive evidence that the Arab League is dead. We in Iraq do not want the Arab League to sign its own death certificate under the current circumstances. We expect it to say something nice which will be remembered by all Iraqis.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that France, Russia, and China — which are passing through a decisive stage in

which their respect for their stands and their concern about their regional and international roles are being tested — should embark on efforts to prepare for lifting the economic sanctions soon. Such a stand is in harmony with their promises and with their official announcements, particularly since there is no excuse for any retreat in the relationship with the Security Council.

The paper adds: America's attempt to create problems and crises and its announcement that it will not lift the sanctions are no excuse for the retreat of Russia, France, and China. What is taking place between Iraq and the United States is only a political conflict that has nothing to do with the Security Council resolutions, or Kuwait. Therefore, these countries cannot hesitate or ask about the nature and objectives of the Iraqi-American conflict when the issue is related to the blockade.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: America's criminal stand vis-a-vis Iraq — the stand expressed by the U.S. State Department spokesman — should prompt and encourage France, Russia, and China to go ahead with their efforts to present a draft resolution for lifting the blockade. This is because America has now officially abandoned the work against Iraq in the name of UN resolutions and began work against Iraq in the name of its selfish expansionist interests.

The paper notes that the next weeks and months will decide whether Russia, France, and China are really independent states that honor their word and stand. The Iraqi people, before their government, are monitoring and scrutinizing these stands. They will also keep these stands in their memory so that they will return to the details when the blockade is lifted soon.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The ball now is in the court of the United Nations, the Arab League, and the three major countries — Russia, France, and China. And public opinion, particularly in Iraq, is waiting for each party to say what it has to say. If the ball remains in their court, the people of Iraq will then be forced to make its conclusions and to find other alternatives. Being threatened by genocide, the Iraqi people have the right to protect themselves and to prevent any infiltration into their homeland.

Paper on U.S. 'Aggressiveness' Against Iraq

*JN0209140095 Baghdad INA in English
1110 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep 2, INA—AL-IRAQ paper has affirmed that the escalation of the U.S. aggressiveness against Iraq is a clear-cut allegation added to the series of the American endless ones.

A paper article published here today, referred to reports by well-informed sources that the Zionist entity was behind the crisis ignited by the U.S. Administration following the defection of Husayn Kamil to keep the situation worse in Iraq.

The sources confirmed that the Zionist entity had cautioned the U.S. Administration vis-a-vis alleged Iraqi military moves to iron out the differences with the Arab countries.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian AL-SHA'B paper published a report last month entitled "The U.S. State Department Warned Against Iraq Moves for the Comeback to the Arab Arena."

AL-'IRAQ stressed that the decision of the intensive U.S. military existence in the Gulf region was adopted during a meeting of senior U.S. officials in the Pentagon held in Washington last June.

U.S. Plan To Separate al-Basrah From Iraq Reported

JN0209140695 Baghdad INA in English
1150 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep. 2, INA—An Iraqi official has said that the U.S. Administration adopted a plan three years ago to bring down Iraqi Province of al-Basrah and other provinces south of parallel 32 to separate them completely from Iraq.

Iraq Command of Arab Ba'th Socialist Party official, who is also in chief of the party organizations in both al-Basrah and Dhi Qar provinces 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun said in a press statement here on Saturday that the U.S. scheme was meant to topple al-Qurnah and Medina districts and separate the province of al-Basrah from the rest of the country.

The enemies' plan, said the Iraqi official, the heroic confrontation by Iraqi people of al-Qurnah District then completely foiled the U.S. scheme.

"Loots of weapons and ammunition which were found after the withdrawal of the infiltrators showed how great was the force which was prepared for this reason," said the Iraqi official.

He added that the main reason why this criminal scheme had been foiled was the precise plan which was put for defending the city in cooperation with the party's courageous members and the city people. President Saddam Husayn had ordered, on the same day three years ago, to award an elite of persons who participated in confronting this aggression.

Explosion Blows Up Butane Gas Station in Bayji NC0209155295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi sources announced that a big explosion took place recently in a butane gas station inside [words indistinct] in the city of Bayji north of Baghdad, killing seven people. A report issued by the Unified Iraqi National Congress said the explosion happened as a result of an explosive device placed in a transport car belonging to an engineer who works in the station. The station includes eight gas reservoirs. The report said that a fire raged in the factory for 48 hours leading to the death of the seven people. Among the dead is an engineer who was a Ba'th party member known for his ferocity against workers.

RCC Decree on Seizure of Smuggled, Banned Property

JN0509090095 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
1 Sep 95 p 2

[RCC Decree No. 80 date 30 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 80 dated 4 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 Hegira corresponding to 30 August 1995.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: The Ministries of Defense and Interior, the Directorate of Public Security, the General Customs Department, and popular organizations are hereby authorized to seize property which is intended for smuggling, or banned from circulation in the local market.

Second: 1. A committee shall be formed in each governorate of the following:

A. The deputy governor as chairman.

B. Representatives of the Ministries of Defense, Finance, Trade, and Industry and Minerals, and the Directorate of Public Security as members.

2. The committee shall assume the following tasks:

A. Receive the property which is seized under the provisions of "First" clause of this decree.

B. Assess the value of the seized property according to current prices, provided that antiques, artifacts, and

manuscripts are evaluated at reasonable prices in coordination with the competent quarters.

C. Deliver the property which is banned from circulation in the local market to the state and socialist sector departments specializing in them at its assessed value. The prices of such property shall also be delivered to these departments.

D. Deliver property which is banned from circulation in the local market, other than those mentioned in "C" above, to the Ministry of Trade.

E. Sell property, whose circulation is allowable, at a public auction in accordance with the provisions of the Law On Selling and Leasing State Property No. 32 of 1986.

F. Pay rewards to those who deserve them in accordance with the provisions of "Fifth" clause of this decree.

3. The chairman of the committee shall enjoy the authority of a customs officer, as stipulated in Article 195, "First" clause of Customs Law No. 23 of 1984.

4. Property which is seized by the quarters, which are authorized to seize smuggled property under Customs Law No. 23 of 1984 and the pertinent Revolution Command Council decrees, shall be exempted of Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this clause. They shall be disposed of according to the provisions of the aforementioned legislations.

Third: 1. A fund to be called "Credit Fund for the Purposes of Granting Rewards" shall be established in the Ministry of Finance. The fund, which will be financed by the ministry, shall grant credits to the committees provided for in "Second" clause of this decree for the purposes of disbursing rewards.

2. The Ministry of Finance shall honor the rewards which are disbursed in accordance with the provisions of "Fifth" clause of this decree with regard to the property which is destroyed by the Ministry of Trade.

Fourth: The value of the goods which are smuggled into or out of the country as stipulated in Article 195, "First" Clause of Customs Law No. 23 of 1984 must be 500,000 instead of 5,000 dinars. Any property whose value is above this figures shall be referred to the competent court.

Fifth: 1. Informers and persons who discover and seize the property, which is the subject of the crimes of smuggling or banned distribution in the local market, shall receive a reward which is equivalent to 80 percent of the value of the confiscated property.

2. The sum of the reward stipulated in Paragraph (1) of this clause shall be distributed as follows:

A. Forty percent goes to the informer.

B. Sixty percent goes to the persons who discover and seize the property.

C. In the absence of an informer, the persons who discover and seize the property shall receive the full sum of the reward.

3. The organs supporting and assisting in carrying out the procedures and disposing of the confiscated property shall receive 20 percent of the value of the confiscated property. The quarters which have the authority to confiscate property shall issue the necessary guidelines on how to distribute the aforementioned percentages to the persons involved.

4. The cabinet may amend the percentages stipulated in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of this clause, or add other beneficiary parties to those mentioned herein.

Sixth: Fifty percent of the sum of the reward stipulated in "Fifth" clause of this decree shall be paid to the persons concerned within a period of not less than three days from the date of the evaluation of the property by the competent quarters. The remainder shall be paid within a period of not more than three months, or after the settlement of the case, whichever comes first.

Seventh: The Ministry of Trade may dispose of the property which is banned from circulation in the local market and which has been delivered to it under Paragraph D of "Second" Clause of this decree by re-exporting it in coordination with the competent quarters, or storing or destroying what cannot be exported.

Eighth: The courts shall consider customs cases and cases which are related to property, which is banned from circulation in the local market, within a period of not less than three months from the date of filing the case.

Ninth: This decree shall be carried out 30 days after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

State Employees, Sons Engaged in Trade Criticized
JN0109092895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
27 Aug 95 p 4

["Signals" column by Yunus Hasan al-Samarra'i:
"Ideas...Not for Sale"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some people work for prestigious state establishments or their sons are engaged in trade, in violation of laws and regulations in force, which do not allow those workers to engage in trade or to buy the state's production establishments. Earlier, these establishments were offered for sale.

Those people are now serving as a cover for traders who break the law. Citizens explain this by saying that those people have become partners of the traders who break the law. Those traders hoard the supplies and items which form a basic part of the ration card and which they import under the supervision and guarantee of the Iraqi state. They hide these items in unlicensed storehouses without the Trade Ministry's knowledge. The purpose of this is to sell these items at higher prices in times of crises and in violation of the Trade Ministry's price list. Those traders rely on their partners at the state establishments for support.

Our people know that our leadership constantly increases the salaries of those workers to improve their living conditions. The sons of those workers should set a good example for others by working to break the blockade. They can do this through hard, productive work which has a positive effect for the people as a whole. Those people, though few in number, represent an unhealthy phenomenon. This is because they managed to buy factories and set up projects which are directly re-

lated to the people's needs, offering their products to the people at exorbitant prices. Those people are doing all they can to keep prices up.

A modest proposal that could check this behavior is to form a specialized committee to study the economic feasibility of the industrial projects that were sold to the private sector. In addition, the state should retrieve whatever projects it can to serve the people under the difficult economic conditions which are the result of the unjust blockade. This way, more people will benefit and those people and their sons will not be allowed to work in projects that affect the people's means of livelihood.

Our struggler leader, President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, is our best example of abstinence, asceticism, sacrifice, and dedication. The leader president is supported by God and the people. He is our hope, after God, for Iraq's salvation from the unjust blockade. Our country has abundant resources and the future bodes well for us. God bears witness to my intentions.

Baraq: Iran Plans To Build Atom Bomb by 2001

TA0309124395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Sep 95 p A5

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Iranians have a plan to manufacture an atom bomb in the year 2001. They want to use shortcuts and get their hands on scientists from the former USSR to assist them in manufacturing the bombs," Interior Minister Ehud Baraq said Friday [1 September] in a speech to Ra'ananna's Economic-Social Club.

According to Baraq, "the current timeframe between our short-term superiority and the long-term risks we face is our window of opportunity, and through that window we have entered Madrid, Oslo, and the peace accord with the Palestinians." [passage omitted]

'Secret' Accord With Russia on Iranian Nuclear Options

TA0309190395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Sep 95

[Qobi Marenko video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A secret agreement has been reached between Israel and Russia on restricting Iran's nuclear option. Russia has guaranteed that it will supervise the reactors it is supplying to Iran in such a way as to prevent them from being used for military ends. Israeli security sources consider this the least of all evils. Even if this agreement does not stop Iran on the way to the bomb, it will at least delay it. Our correspondent Qobi Marenko reports:

[Begin Marenko recording] The nuclear reactors being built in Iran are officially aimed only at generating electricity. Most of the work is being done by Russian engineers. At the same time, dozens of Iranian experts are being trained in the nuclear sphere.

Russia is in dire need of these funds. Therefore, we will see the reactors set up in Iran in several years. Israel fears that this know-how will be supplemented by materials needed for the manufacture of a bomb. The Russian mafia is trying to smuggle out and sell such materials to the highest bidder. The result would be a nuclear bomb at a distance of 1,200 km from Israel. A plane capable of traveling long distances or a surface-to-surface missile loaded with a bomb could constitute a deadly threat, despite the fact that, as of today, Iran does not have such capability.

This concern led to a secret exchange of letters with Russia which ended in an agreement: Russia guaranteed that it will provide supervision in order to prevent any

military activity in the nuclear installations in Iran and that it will keep Israel briefed.

Even though this constitutes an achievement in the struggle against the Iranian bomb, Israeli security sources recall that the Iraqi nuclear reactor was under French supervision and that, despite this, the Iraqis managed to develop a military infrastructure in it. As will be recalled, Israel Air Force planes bombed this reactor a short time before it became operational.

It is generally assessed that Iran will obtain a bomb in about five years, and several additional years will pass before it will be able to fire it at Israel. The agreement with the Russians buys Israel some more time. [end recording]

Rabin To Meet With Chernomyrdin

TA0509102895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 Sep 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will seek detailed clarifications from Russia about the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran and the measures to monitor them. Next week, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is expected to hold a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in which the Russian-Iranian deal will feature prominently.

Rabin is scheduled to leave for Moscow after paying a state visit to Ukraine. It was learned from his bureau yesterday that the meeting with Chernomyrdin has not yet been finalized.

High-level contacts between Russia and Israel have been taking place in recent weeks in a bid to dispel the tension over the nuclear deal with Iran. Chernomyrdin sent a pacifying message to Rabin to the effect that the deal will not endanger Israel. Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov met for the first time with Israeli Ambassador to Moscow 'Aliza Shinhar and relayed a message in the same spirit to her.

Additional contacts were held through defense establishment channels. The assessment emerging in the defense establishment is that there is no chance of stopping the deal between Iran and Russia and that efforts must now center on ensuring adequate monitoring of the reactors, attendant equipment, and know-how to be supplied to the Iranians so that they cannot be diverted for military use.

Senior security sources told HA'ARETZ that "the issue is expected to keep us busy for a long time." Defense establishment sources recommended to Rabin to maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Russians

in a bid to get from them information about the equipment that will be supplied to Iran and procedures for monitoring it and to pressure them to make the checks and controls as strict as possible. To date, Rabin has been inclined to toe the U.S. line on the issue, which is why he objected to direct contacts between Israel and North Korea. Senior political sources said Israel has been coordinating its moves with the U.S. Administration in parallel with its contacts with Russia.

Messages sent to Israel from Moscow note that Russia is determined to go ahead with the nuclear deal with Iran on condition that Tehran pay for it. The Russians will initially complete the electricity-producing nuclear reactor in Bushehr, whose construction was begun by a German company in the 1970's (under the shah). The planned deal will total \$780 million. The Russians have so far spent \$20 million on the initial planning, but Iran has not yet paid for these expenses.

The Russians told Israel that reports about plans to build additional reactors are not true, primarily due to Iran's solvency problems. According to information received in Israel, the contract for the construction of the first reactor in Bushehr is expected to be signed in November, after the planning and financing details are worked out. A delegation headed by the Russian deputy atomic energy minister went to Iran last week to finalize the funding and the working conditions of the Russian technical team that will go to Iran to examine the installations built by the Germans.

Russia has already agreed to supply Iran with fuel for the reactor for 10 years, as of 2001. The Iranians promised to transfer all the radiation waste from the nuclear reactor to Russia so that it may not be used to produce plutonium for military purposes.

The Russians promised Israel that Iran will not be able to use the reactor for military purposes and that Russia will not supply it with the industrial infrastructure and know-how required to that end. Nevertheless, they stressed, a country that aspires to acquire nuclear weapons cannot be totally checked.

According to reports that have reached Jerusalem in recent days, the U.S. Administration believes Russia has not given it all the information pertaining to the sale of the reactors to Iran. The Americans fear that Russia will create facts on the ground and try to cover them up with conciliatory political messages.

Opposition Sees Indyk Absence at Event as 'Slap'

TA0409173595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A festive ceremony marking the opening of celebrations for Jerusalem's 3000th anniversary was launched at the Knesset square in Jerusalem a short while ago.

The ceremony was attended by the prime minister, the Knesset speaker, and the city's mayor. President Weizman was absent due to illness.

U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk was absent from the state-sponsored ceremony, and was represented by a third-in-line consul from the embassy. Numerous European ambassadors also stayed away from the ceremony.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in reaction the opposition said that the American decision to boycott the ceremony was a slap in the face of the Israeli Government.

Rabin Bureau Displeased Over Absence

TA0509061195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister's bureau expressed displeasure about the absence of foreign ambassadors — particularly U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk — from Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary celebrations. Political sources said attempts will continue to be made to convince the ambassadors to participate in future events linked to the Jerusalem festivities. It appears, however, that an official protest will not be presented over the absence of the ambassadors from last night's opening ceremony at the Knesset.

Mayor Notes Varied U.S. Responses

TA0509104295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 5 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert by Arye Golan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Golan] To what extent did U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk's conspicuous absence cast a pall over the opening of Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary celebrations?

[Olmert] I do not think it cast a pall over us. I think it says something about them, first and foremost, and I believe it will also cast a shadow over him. Still, it has not made me happier. We must remember, however, that the United States has never recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The Jerusalem issue is an open wound in our relations with the United States.

[Golan] Did the ambassador's absence underline that?

[Olmert] It can always be said that when somebody chooses to demonstrate, it constitutes a protest. I would like to offset that by discussing two counterdemonstrations, which might balance the impression about the significance of the ambassador's demonstration. New York Mayor Rudi Giuliani is holding an official reception for thousands at his official residence — something he very rarely does — to mark the 3,000th anniversary celebrations, and he invited me to be his guest. On 24 October, the U.S. Congress will hold an official reception on Capitol Hill, which is formally considered second only to the White House in U.S. protocol, to mark Jerusalem's celebrations. Both the prime minister and I will be official guests at that reception. In other words, America has more than one face.

[Golan] Do you think the Republicans will now encourage or speed up the legislation to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem?

[Olmert] I expect two things. The U.S. Jewish community naturally felt deeply hurt yesterday, because the ambassador represents it as well. It was, of course, not a personal act by the ambassador. I think I know how he felt, because I know him. It was a decision by the State Department, by elements which traditionally have never been our best friends. I assume that U.S. Jewry, which feels hurt by the administration's stand, will muster its strength to bring about the completion of the legislative process to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and to get formal U.S. recognition of united Jerusalem as Israel's capital. [passage omitted]

Ministry Adopts New Approach to POW Affair

TA0409063295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] If Egypt pursues its accusations against Israel regarding the killing of Egyptian prisoners of war, Israel will point out that Israeli POW's were also killed by Egyptians. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says this approach was decided on last night during consultations held by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres with his advisers.

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan will travel today to Cairo to meet with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The Foreign Ministry reportedly hopes that Dayan's meeting will clarify the Egyptians' intentions regarding the recent crisis in relations over the POW issue.

Beilin, Egyptian Ambassador Meet

TA0109125995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt insists on its demand that Israel look into the allegations about the killing of Egyptian POW's. This emerged in a meeting held between Minister Yosi Beilin and Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni. The latter said he hopes the affair would be wrapped up soon, while Beilin voiced concern about the fact that Egypt always seems to find another excuse to tarnish the atmosphere in the bilateral relationship. The previous crisis occurred when Egypt exerted pressure to have Israel sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today phoned the Israeli ambassador in Cairo and told him that people in Israel are astonished at the reports published in Egypt that Ambassador David Sultan personally murdered numerous Egyptian POW's. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Peres said that this was slanderous libel and that all the published reports were a figment of somebody's imagination. The foreign minister stressed that there is a great deal of appreciation for David Sultan, who has done a lot to strengthen relations between Israel and Egypt.

Rabinovich Fears Egypt, Syria Renewing 'Axis'

TA0409103395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 Sep 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Gay Bekhor]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation for the talks with Syria, fears the revival of the Syria-Egypt axis which, with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia, started "the negative dynamics" in the peace process at the end of 1994. Rabinovich was referring to the meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held in Cairo yesterday. The two discussed the Middle East peace process and developments in Iraq.

Ambassador Rabinovich told HA'ARETZ that it is legitimate for the two countries to hold consultations and that it is even clear that the Iraqi issue is of interest to them, but that it is hoped that a negative trend in the peace process will not recommence. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich further told HA'ARETZ that he agrees with al-Asad that the negotiations with Syria have reached a stalemate, but that the Syrian president has failed to note that he (al-Asad) is responsible for the stalemate that followed Syria's reneging on its agreement on negotiating procedures — namely, resuming phase three of the officers' talks.

Rabinovich expressed the hope that the resumption of contacts between Dennis Ross, head of the American peace team, and the Syrians would help thaw the frozen negotiations. According to him, there may be sense in resuming the ambassadors' talks, but only if they are not perceived as a substitute for the military talks.

He added that the resumption of U.S.-Syrian contacts, coupled with a Syrian negotiating style that is aware of the significance of the passage of time, would allow the parties to make up for lost time and catch up on what is missing. The ambassador said that Syria is concerned by the developments in Iraq, mainly the sanctions issue, and that it fears the reorganization of the anti-Saddam coalition even more than Egypt does. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Syrians Responsible for Slowing Talks

TA0309131095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Sep 95 p A5

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Friday [1 September] that there is foot-dragging in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations since the Syrians are refusing to sit down directly with Israel. In an address to 11th and 12th graders in Or Yehuda on the occasion of the opening of the school year, the prime minister said that "unlike the Egyptians in the past and present, and unlike the Palestinians and Jordanians with whom we could talk directly and openly, as well as covertly, the Syrians are unprepared to sit down with us alone."

Rabin attacked the opponents of peace with Syria. "Whoever says that peace is possible with the entire Golan or almost the entire Golan remaining with us is simply lying. There is no such thing. To say that the Golan is more important than peace is legitimate, but to say that peace is possible with the entire Golan is a blatant lie." Rabin reiterated that if Israel reaches a peace accord that calls for a significant withdrawal, "I am prepared to bring the peace treaty and its price to the government, and the people will decide in a national referendum. If the majority is opposed, there will not be peace. If the majority is in favor, there will be peace."

In response to a student's question, the prime minister noted that the main turnaround in world and Arab opinion in Israel's favor is due to the agreement with the Palestinians. "It was generally accepted, perhaps to some extent justifiably, that the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In daring to try to resolve the conflict, Israel changed the world's attitude toward it, and to a certain extent, the attitude of states and leaders in the Arab world. If Israel succeeds in making progress in resolving the Palestinian problem, most of the Arab and Muslim arena will be opened up

to us, and that will also have an impact on Syria," Rabin believes.

In reply to another question, Rabin said that today's enemies of peace are not yesterday's enemies. The current and future enemies are the extremist Islamic movements belonging to the school of Khomeyni and Rafsanjani's Iran. "That is the enemy. Terrorism against us is not perpetrated by the PLO. Since late 1993, no Israeli has been murdered by the PLO, only by fanatical Islam — Islamic Jihad, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the rejectionist movements based in Damascus."

An attempt is now being made to resolve the most complex and oldest aspect of the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "Thanks to the moves with the PLO, we signed a peace treaty with Jordan. Nevertheless, there are on the Palestinian side — and not only there — opponents of peace: Islamic Jihad and Hamas. Only a week ago, they broadcast from Damascus that their aim is to bring about the government's downfall. They know that only this government will lead us toward peace, and that if it falls, the process will end and the PLO will be hurt. Extremist Islam will take control of the Palestinians, and we will face not a divided Palestinian camp but a Palestinian camp united against us."

Rabin also said: "We have arrived at the basic question — What do we want? A Greater Israel with 4.5 million Jews and 3 million Palestinians? A binational or Jewish state? We want a Jewish state; therefore, I do not want to annex 2.2 million Palestinians."

In Rabin's view, mixing Palestinians and Israelis in the territories "creates a paradise for terrorism," and the burden falls on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Israel Police, the Border Police, and Shin Bet in a setup existing almost nowhere else in the world. The prime minister noted that he understands the fears of those who believed in Greater Israel and thought that the settlements provided security, while today the problem is how to safeguard them. Therefore, there is a legitimate dispute, and the right to demonstrate exists.

In reference to the Palestinian National Covenant, Rabin said that under the self-rule plan, when progress is made in the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo accord and elections are held for the Palestinian Authority's council, there is an undertaking that within two months the covenant's clauses referring to Israel's destruction will be amended. He observed that within that context, Israel is also not implementing all aspects of the accord with the Palestinians: "The agreement includes free passage between Gaza and Jericho, which due to security considerations, we have not upheld for over a year and a half."

Peres 'Disappointed' With al-Asad's 'Tone'

TA0409165995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 4 Sep 95

[Report by Knesset correspondent Hadar Vismonsky]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has become an almost regular feature every few weeks for either the prime minister or the foreign minister to turn up at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and sharply attack Syria. Today it was Minister Peres' turn, and he directed his onslaught directly at the Syrian president's office.

[Begin Peres recording] We were disappointed with al-Asad's performance because of his pessimistic tone and because of one quite strange answer. All the agreements achieved up to now were the result not only of negotiations on the military level, but also on the political echelon. I do not see any reason why something so commonplace and acceptable in the world does not take place between Syria and us. [end recording]

Our skepticism grew following al-Asad's remarks yesterday in Cairo, but that does not mean that our desire for peace has been abandoned, Peres said.

The foreign minister also referred to the affair involving the killing of Egyptian POW's by Israeli soldiers. It is a complex issue on which I am holding unofficial contacts with the Egyptian foreign minister in order to try to resolve the problem, Peres said.

[Begin Peres recording] The problem must be overcome using wise and patient means and that is what we will do. [end recording]

The committee members also heard from Labor's 'Imanu'el Zismann about a new recording in which Yasir 'Arafat calls for shahadah, the act of martyrdom. Peres denounced it, but stressed that he does not know of the existence of such a recording.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 4 September adds that "Foreign Minister Peres blamed Damascus for the stalemate and he said the Americans back the Israeli position that ground early warning stations on the Golan remain on the agenda. According to a Knesset official at the closed door meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Peres also lashed out at Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for trying to practically justify terrorism. Peres also called it serious that one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders issuing directives is based in Damascus. Still, Peres told reporters, Israel will not stop trying."

[Referring to his visit to Hebron today, "Foreign Minister Peres confirmed that a return of a Temporary International Presence like the observers brought in after

last year's Hebron massacre is being considered." In a recorded passage, Peres says: "It is true that the Palestinians have suggested to reintroduce the TIP, which is the Temporary International Presence, and we are considering it."]

The meeting ended in a sharp exchange between Meretz' Ran Kohen and the Likud's Ari'el Sharon. You are one of the fathers of terrorism, an inflated balloon that should be deflated, Kohen shouted at Sharon, who responded: You collaborate with the PLO and are pathetic.

Liba'i Suspends Handling of Golan Referendum

TA0109114895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
1 Sep 95 p 5

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister David Liba'i has decided to suspend work on the Golan Heights referendum.

An authoritative legal source yesterday said the justice minister's decision follows the slowdown of the talks with Syria. "At the moment we cannot see any breakthrough in these talks."

Meanwhile, an internal team appointed by the justice minister submitted a special report on the issue of the referendum. The team, headed by Deputy Attorney General Shlomo Guberman, was appointed to examine the legal aspects of the referendum.

Over the last few months the team, aided by foreign elements, accrued a great amount of material in a bid to study referendums conducted abroad. Liba'i received the material, but decided to freeze the treatment of the issue.

Beilin on Talks With Jordanian Ministers

TA0109185295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Interview with Economic Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in the studio — live, in Hebrew with passage-by-passage translation into Arabic; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ganor] Dr. Beilin, what were the topics raised in your meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariiti?

[Beilin] The tete-a-tete meeting with the Jordanian foreign minister was long and very interesting, and we were able to conduct a general survey of the situation in the Middle East, particularly in light of the Jordanian

foreign minister's visit to Saudi Arabia, a visit which was of utmost importance to Jordan.

[Ganor] How do the Saudis view their relations with Israel based on the impressions the Jordanian foreign minister relayed to you?

[Beilin] In the very special meeting held between the Saudi king and the Jordanian foreign minister, the former expressed special interest in the establishment of peace between Israel and Syria and Saudi Arabia's full support for the peace process and belief that it will be completed. Meanwhile, the foreign minister said he hoped the Americans would vigorously enter the Israeli-Syrian process in the fall because, so he said, only the Americans can bring about a breakthrough.

[Ganor] Dr. Beilin, earlier today you met with Jordanian Planning Minister Rima Khalaf al-Hunaydi. What did you agree on?

[Beilin] We agreed to set up a trilateral Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli planning mechanism in our region. In my opinion, this is an important decision which will lead us to closer cooperation. We cannot really plan separately when we live so close to one other. I have already agreed on such cooperation with Palestinian Planning Minister Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, and the agreement with Dr. al-Hunaydi will now create this trilateral mechanism. All three of us will meet in Amman within a few weeks, and then we will travel to Germany to meet with the planning minister and to work with Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian planners in order to create a joint basis for the planning of the region.

[Ganor] Did you agree on specific projects?

[Beilin] Indeed, we spoke about many projects, first of all the 'Arava airport which will serve both al-'Aqabah and Elat. We spoke at length about the regional bank — there are several disagreements on this issue, which I hope we will be able to overcome — and on the plans for the Amman conference, which will be held in less than two months.

[Ganor] Dr. Beilin, thank you for coming to our studio.

[Beilin] Thank you.

Military Sources Deny IDF Involvement in Blast

TA0309115295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Sep 95 p A6

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] elements believe the explosion that struck Ahmad Jibril's organization in the al-Biq'a Valley last weekend was an accident and not the result of IDF operations. A

military source told HA'ARETZ that the accident had occurred in the course of an exercise carried out by Jibril's men, and that the IDF was not involved.

Reports received in Israel indicate that the terrorists were carrying out an exercise in the area of al-'Ayshiyah, practicing the use of explosives, when two bombs went off killing five terrorists, including one of the most prominent figures in the organization, the commander of Ahmad Jibril's eastern sector. Ahmad Jibril's son Jihad, who was among the wounded, was evacuated to a hospital in Damascus.

Although the IDF was not involved in the event, the Northern Command — anticipating retaliation by Jibril against the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] — stepped up its level of alert. Military sources said that the terrorists killed in the blast were practicing for a military operation against the al-Fayhan outpost in south Lebanon.

In view of the heavy losses sustained by Hizballah in recent weeks, the Northern Command believes that the escalation between Hizballah on one hand and the IDF and the SLA on the other will continue. It has been learned that the terrorists have lost some 20 men to IDF and SLA gunfire in recent weeks. Northern Command elements assess that terrorist organizations will now assume a defensive position, carrying out few direct attacks.

A number of incidents were recorded in south Lebanon over the weekend, mainly exchanges of gunfire between Hizballah and the IDF and the SLA.

Rejectionist front organizations yesterday exchanged fire with IDF and SLA forces in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused. In the western sector, terrorists fired at IDF and SLA positions. No casualties were reported in these incidents either. [passage omitted]

IDF Said 'Unhappy' With New Hebron Proposal

TA0409191995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Sep 95

[Nitzan Hen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The defense establishment is considering a proposal to split Hebron into two zones: one governed by Israel and the other by the Palestinians. Under the proposal, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will withdraw from the center of Hebron and be replaced by the Palestinian Police. Roads leading to and from Qiryat Arba' and from Qiryat Arba' to Hebron's Jewish settlement will remain under IDF control. Our

correspondent reports that the IDF is unhappy with the proposal.

This morning Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres toured Hebron. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen went along on the tour:

[Hen] Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres came to Hebron this morning to personally observe why the city of Hebron has become the heart of the problem, the toughest controversy impeding the negotiations with the Palestinians. Accompanied by Gen. Ilan Biran, Rabin and Peres visited sites of habitual friction. No media was allowed on the tour, which was defined as secret. They visited Tal al-Rumaythah, Policeman's Square, and sites where Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists had perpetrated shooting attacks on settlers.

The IDF will find it very difficult to protect the Hebron settlers without controlling all the roads, Gen. Biran informed Defense Minister Rabin more than once.

Rabin and Peres have asked the IDF upper echelons to examine a new idea: partial IDF deployment in the Jewish blocs, with the Palestinian Police in the depths of Hebron, from which the IDF will have to withdraw.

However, the Central Command top brass are far from enthusiastic about the latest proposal or Peres' old ideas of joint patrols or foreign observers. The Netzarim solution will not hold in Hebron, senior defense establishment officials said. [passage omitted]

Biran Said Planning Resignation in Protest

TA0409194295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Sep 95

[Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General Ilan Biran, the Central Command chief, intends to resign over his opposition to the emerging Israeli-Palestinian arrangement. Biran disclosed his intention in several recent conversations. He is opposed to the plan to pull the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of Hebron while leaving the settlers behind. Our army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel reports:

[Daniyel] Gen. Biran is highly critical of the way the negotiations with the Palestinians have been conducted, mainly regarding the emerging security arrangements, which were the reason for the prime minister's visit to Hebron today. In internal discussions, the general has been quite outspoken toward Foreign Ministry staffers as well as fellow officers. Recently, he has said several times that he intends to resign from his post and possibly leave the IDF. Some people know the date: the beginning of next year. Gen. Ilan Biran has not said

anything explicitly. Interviewed by 'Imanu'el Rosen, he preferred vague terms:

[Begin Biran recording] I will arrange my moves with the chief of staff. I assume you will hear about it from the IDF spokesman. [end recording]

He has said on several occasions that a tough — almost untenable — situation will arise in the area after the agreement, and the IDF and the Central Command will have to carry out their task — seeing to the settlers safety — under agreed-on but impossible conditions, of which Hebron is but one example.

The prime minister and the foreign minister briefly visited Hebron today to observe what Biran and others see daily: a number of Jewish buildings in the heart of a crowded Arab city. If a decision to exit the cities is implemented, the settlers' safety cannot be guaranteed without a very tight cordon of soldiers around them. Biran, as well as other officers, say that either the decision to depart or the declaration that Jews will not be evacuated should be rescinded. Both leaving Jewish settlements in and departing from Hebron are recipes for dangerous friction that will render the IDF helpless. [passage omitted]

IDF Spokesman Denies Report

TA0409201195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has denied the report carried by Channel 2 Television tonight, that said Central Command Commander Ilan Biran is planning to resign his post because of disagreements with the political echelons. The spokesman said that Major General Biran has not tendered his resignation, and he does not intend to resign his post. The commander voices his views, beliefs, and assessments in a customary manner in meetings with authorized officials, he said.

Rabin, Peres View Proposed Arrangements in Hebron

TA0409103195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres toured Hebron this morning to examine the proposed security arrangements in the city. The arrangements in Hebron are one of the outstanding issues delaying the signing of the interim agreement with the Palestinians. Accompanying Rabin and Peres were Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command; Major General Dani Yatom,

the prime minister's aide-de-camp; and Major General Gabi Ofir.

Ministers Discuss 18 Disagreements With Palestinians

TA0309140195 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The discussion on the Israeli-Palestinians negotiations at the prime minister's bureau has ended. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that 18 points of disagreement were raised during the session, including Hebron, water, electricity, roads, joint patrols, and the Palestinian demand to receive rights over various assets, such as quarries.

No agreement has been reached on when the Palestinians will receive development funds and what charges they will have to pay for taxes levied by Israel on their behalf, such as customs and value added taxes.

Another disagreement has to do with the manner in which East Jerusalem residents will vote for the autonomy council. Israel has agreed to their voting at East Jerusalem post offices, without any accompanying election features, but the Palestinians are opposed to this.

Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, presented Israel's proposals on Rachel's Tomb, according to which visitors to the tomb will not encounter Palestinian policemen.

Health Minister on Disagreements

TA0309172695 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1605 GMT 3 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Efrayim Sne by Mikha'el Tuchfeld; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tuchfeld] Minister Sne, we have heard that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin has held the first meeting of its kind with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists with Israel's knowledge. What does Israel hope to achieve by this meeting?

[Sne] We did not hope to achieve anything by approving this meeting. We merely permitted Shaykh Yasin to hold a dialogue with these people. We will definitely be satisfied by a positive outcome.

[Tuchfeld] Shaykh Yasin appealed to Hamas activists in the past — in the Nahshon Wachsmann affair, as well as in other cases — but such appeals did not help very much.

[Sne] The very fact that such a prominent personage as Shaykh Yasin is making an appeal could have some polarizing effect on the Hamas camp and, as a result, a moderating effect on segments of this organization. We

must remember that Hamas and the extremist religious elements in the Palestinian public are multifaceted, and when such a voice is heard, it has an overall positive impact. Therefore, it is important for it to be heard.

[Tuchfeld] Do you think he has influence over the Hamas military wing, which is opposed to stopping the attacks?

[Sne] I am afraid that he has no such influence. Our working assumption should be that the Hamas military wing will not take part in such an initiative and that, on the contrary, it will fight it and continue the attacks. This obliges us to implement all possible measures to fight Hamas terrorism, even when we hear such a moderating statement from Shaykh Yasin.

[Tuchfeld] So you are not overly optimistic about the practical results of this appeal?

[Sne] It will have an impact on the Palestinian public, but I fear it will not influence the military wing — those who carry out the attacks — whom we will have to continue fighting.

[Tuchfeld] Minister Sne, I would like to turn to the 18 points of disagreement with the Palestinians which you discussed today at the prime minister's bureau. Do you not believe that there are too many difficult problems to be resolved in a short period?

[Sne] Look, there are many practical problems which have not been solved yet. I am familiar with such problems in the health sphere, for example, for which I am responsible. There are several points of disagreement. The nearer we reach the end of the talks, the more practical problems surface — and these tend to be the most difficult. On the basis of my familiarity with the situation, I believe these problems can be solved.

'Secret Document': PA, Hamas To Sign Agreement

TA0309100295 *Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT*
in Hebrew 3 Sep 95 pp 1, 23

[Report by Sha'ul Peretz; quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] is about to sign a cooperation agreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], according to a secret document handed to Police Minister Moshe Shahal in the last few days. The document was written by Shahal's Arab affairs adviser Moshe Sason, Israel's former ambassador to Egypt.

Sason held a meeting with senior Fatah official Hisham 'Abd-al- Raziq, who is currently serving as coordinator of activities between the PA and Hamas. According to 'Abd-al-Raziq, the state of PA-Hamas talks "is ripe for

an agreement, and Hamas is interested in reaching such an accord because its leaders believe that following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment they will become politically weakened. The aim of the recent suicide bombers was to hand a clear message to the PA: If you do not reach an agreement with us that satisfies us, we will make sure you do not reach the redeployment stage."

'Abd-al-Raziq also told Sason that 'Arafat has received a report on the details of PA-Hamas negotiations and even recently approved a meeting between two senior Fatah Central Committee members and Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, but that the signing of the agreement is being held up because 'Arafat has still not given them the green light, probably because he is worried that Israel is opposed to the agreement."

'Abd-al-Raziq asked Sason to have senior Israeli elements explain the Israeli position to 'Arafat. He said 'Arafat trusts Peres and Shahal and has recommended holding a discrete conversation with them within a small forum.

At the conclusion of his letter, Sason recommends that Israel inform 'Arafat that it is letting him decide on whether to sign the accord with Hamas. The Israeli position is not to oppose the agreement if Hamas undertakes to cease immediately all attacks against it.

Problems With Bypass Road May Delay Redeployment

TA0209121495 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1000 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of serious difficulties that have surfaced in the paving of the Bethlehem bypass road, it will not be completed by the end of

the year, and this may cause a serious delay in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment plans for this region.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that part of the road's route passes within the Green Line. Government circles accuse the attorney general of not helping to facilitate the process in an effort to complete the road on time. These circles also accuse Israeli environmental organizations of further delaying the paving of the road.

Our correspondent notes that in yesterday's discussion on the negotiations with the Palestinians held at the prime minister's bureau, the head of the Central Command referred to the delays in the paving of bypass roads.

Ben-Eli'ezer: Construction No Delay

TA0309073795 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0600 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says that the Public Works Department will complete the construction of most of the West Bank bypass roads on time, and that this issue will not cause the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to reschedule its redeployment.

Speaking to our correspondent this morning, the minister explained that the delay in the construction of a 900-meter stretch of the Bethlehem bypass road was due to restrictions imposed by the law. He expressed his hope that the delay caused by the construction of this road would not impede the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians and that arrangements can be made until the road is completed.

CIA Said Planning To Establish Bureau in Amman
JN0509091295 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
6 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Our brothers in the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] have decided to open a permanent headquarters and a regional representative bureau in the Middle East. AL-BILAD information suggests that the Jordanian capital, Amman, will host this CIA branch. The same information confirms that the initial executive steps are under way after a political decision was made in this regard. The information further confirms that the U.S. [as published] Government approved a U.S. request in this regard which was endorsed by the CIA's strategic planning committee.

Finally, peace opponents, as well as Americans and the Jordanian Government, have "smelled" something about this story and began to barricade themselves to prevent the establishment of such headquarters, which was necessitated — directly and indirectly — by the peace process, as well as by recent developments in the Iraqi arena.

Security Tightened Amid Fears of Iraqi Attack

NC0309105395 Paris AFP in English
1032 GMT 3 Sep 95

[By Randa Habib]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Sept 3 (AFP) — Jordan has tightened security on its border with Iraq placing the only crossing point on full alert amid fears Baghdad may retaliate after the defections of two top Iraqis, a senior official said Sunday [3 September].

"We fear the Iraqi intelligence services will try to sneak paid men into Jordan to attack the Iraqi defectors who sought refuge in Jordan," the Jordanian official said, asking to remain anonymous.

King Husayn gave asylum to former Iraqi industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan and their wives, both daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, when they defected on August 8.

They and their entourage of about 15 people are now living in Jordan under the protection of King Husayn, who several days later slammed Baghdad in a nationwide address, signalling an end to their once warm ties.

Jordan has not ruled out that Iraq could coordinate with radical Palestinian militant groups "to try to launch terrorist operations against Jordanian targets in the country.

"Baghdad's silence and the lack of any criticism of Jordan following the defections of General Hasan or the king's speech against the Iraqi regime does not mean the Iraqi authorities are not planning terrorist operations in Jordan," the official said.

The only border crossing at Karamah, near the town of Ruwayshid, about 350 kilometres (220 miles) northeast of Amman, has been placed on "full alert" and travelers are "scrupulously searched" and subjected to "very strict identity controls."

Iraqis do not need visas to enter the kingdom but those arriving at the border have reported delays of "more than five hours." The same crossing was used by Hasan when he fled with his family.

Baghdad may try "to coordinate with extremist Palestinian groups, such as the Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu-Nidal or the Palestine Liberation Front of Abu-'Abbas to order attacks in Jordan," the official charged.

Abu-Nidal's group has carried out several attacks on Jordanian diplomats since 1984. The last was against the first secretary on the Jordanian embassy in Beirut, Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, who was killed in 1994.

An international arrest warrant has been issued for Abu-'Abbas following the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship the Achille Lauro in October 1985 during which an American tourist was killed when he was thrown overboard. Abu-'Abbas now lives in Baghdad where he has set up his headquarters.

Meanwhile, Jordan has refused to allow two Iraqi journalists to enter the country for the past three weeks.

"These journalists wrote articles insulting King Husayn and that is why we have banned them from entering," a Jordanian minister told AFP.

He said Iraq's ambassador to Jordan Nuri al-Wayyis had tried in vain to plead the case for Salah Mukhtar, the editor of the daily AL-JUMHURIYAH, and Muzhir 'Arif, a journalist with the daily BABIL run by Saddam's son, 'Udayy.

Syrian Embassy Denies Husayn Kamil Contacts

JN0409135195 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 4 Sep 95
p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Embassy sources in Amman have denied that any contacts were made between the embassy and defector Husayn Kamil Hasan who claimed in an interview with the Saudi magazine AL-WASAT that he contacted Syrian officials through the Syrian Embassy in Amman.

Replying to a question by AL-MAJD, these sources said that Husayn Kamil's statements are groundless and pure fabrication.

Columnist on Syria's 'Hasty Move' on Iraq

*JN0509073295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Sep 95 pp 32, 28*

["Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "What Does Syria Want and Will It Succeed?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When Syria moves so rapidly after almost a month of silence during which it accurately made its calculations and viewed the matter from all aspects, this means it is sure about an imminent change in Iraq. This also means that Syria must have its own opinion and role in this change which will change many things in the region.

Since the defection of General Husayn Kamil and his group, President Hafiz al-Asad did not hasten. He maintained his silence all this time because the defection surprised him just as much as it surprised others. Because of his tendency for making accurate calculations and taking his time before defining his country's final position, President al-Asad wanted to know the dimensions of this step and whether it constitutes the beginning of developments or is just a defection like any other political defection by more than one Iraqi official over the past quarter of a century and before that.

Therefore, many people, including a senior Palestinian official who recently met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', think that Syria is not concerned with this new Iraqi development, that it does not rely on it much, and that it views it as just another link in a long chain which began when the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assumed power not in 1968 but in 1963.

President al-Asad is making this hasty move and seeking to establish a new axis in the Iraqi arena which is burdened with events and anticipated developments. This is because he considers himself worthy of being the "Godfather" of the Iraqi issue and of being the leader of any move to resolve this issue whether through military means or through peaceful and political methods.

President al-Asad is proceeding with this view out of the consideration that despite many political differences, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which rules in Iraq and Syria, is still one party in terms of long-term objectives and theoretical and ideological bases. He also proceeds with this view from the fact that it is inevitable to return to the well-known National Charter issued in 1978 and considered an advanced party and political step.

Perhaps what not too many people know is that President al-Asad kept the Iraqi file to himself throughout these years since he assumed power with the so-called corrective movement in 1970. It is certain that during these years, he kept special secret channels with senior officers in the Iraqi Armed Forces, especially ones from the old guard who lived the experience of the one party and the dream of one Iraqi-Syrian state.

Therefore, there is no doubt that before it made this recent move, Syria received many reports from the Iraqi arena and perhaps from decision makers in the party and the state. There is also no doubt that Syria realized a change is imminent, which prompted it to make this hasty move and to do whatever it can to establish a regional axis that would influence the Iraqi issue.

Islamist Criticizes Regime's Policy on Iraq

*NC0109144395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1315 GMT 1 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 1 Sep (MENA)—Layth Shubaylat, doyen of the Jordanian Engineers Association, has criticized his country's regime and its tendency to cooperate with the United States to overthrow the ruling regime in Iraq on the pretext of feeling sorrow and pity for the Iraqi people. He cited in this regard Jordan's granting political asylum to General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, a former industry minister and chairman of the Military Industrialization Organization.

In a statement issued today, Shubaylat denounced the U.S.- Jordanian military exercises near the Iraqi border, noting that Jordan has never carried out any joint military exercise with any Arab army.

He said this new policy is part of a plan to create a new image for Jordan, bearing no resemblance to any Arab or Islamic character, and to establish a Jordanian-Zionist alliance under U.S. supervision.

Shubaylat was an elected member of the Jordanian Parliament more than once. He was sentenced to death in the al-Nafir al-Islami case in which he was accused of plotting to overthrow the regime. But his sentence was commuted by the State Security Court to life with hard labor. He was then pardoned by King Husayn.

'Agreement' Reached With Egypt on Diplomatic 'Crisis'

*JN0409143895 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic
6 Sep 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-HADATH has learned from a responsible government source that high-level contacts were held last week between Cairo and Amman to contain a press and diplomatic crisis which erupted

between the two capitals over the past two weeks. The crisis broke out in the wake of a hostile article by the Mahfuz al-Ansari, chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH, in which he directly attacked the Jordanian leadership.

The source added that these contacts led to a gentleman's agreement between the two sides to stop reciprocal press campaigns. It noted that official directives were issued by the Jordanian Ministry of Information to the three dailies urging their writers to stop their strong criticism of the Egyptian leadership.

Similar directives were also issued by the Egyptian Information Ministry to the national newspapers, namely, AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH.

Foreign Minister Reacts to al-Asad-Mubarak Summit

JN0509082395 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
5 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that every country has the right to assess the situation in the Arab arena and to monitor developments in Iraq. They also have the right to consult with each other over the topical issues in the Arab homeland, he added. Answering a question by AL-ASWAQ on the Egyptian-Syrian meeting which took place the day before yesterday in Cairo, al-Kabariti said that Jordan views the meeting between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad from such a perspective.

Al-Kabariti stressed that the situation in Iraq is now a hot issue and a top priority for all Arab states because the consequences of this situation will have great effects on both Arab and regional levels. Consequently, he said, Jordan has urged an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Al-Kabariti said Jordanian-Iraqi contacts are continuing through diplomatic channels. He added: The latest of these contacts was established following reports that the Jordanian energy and mineral resources minister postponed a visit to Baghdad, which was scheduled for late August. The Iraqi party voiced a strong desire to renew the agreement to supply Jordan with Iraqi oil after the expiry of the previous agreement between the two countries.

Al-Kabariti noted that the energy minister's visit to Iraq was postponed for purely technical reasons. He stressed that the Iraqi ambassador in Amman continues to fulfill his normal tasks and is given the same facilities given to all the accredited ambassadors in Jordan.

Asked about reports, published during the Egyptian foreign minister's recent visit to Amman, that Jordan urged an Egyptian mediation to restore ties with Syria, al-Kabariti said: We did not ask anyone to mediate between us and Syria, with which we still have contacts despite the current stalemate in relations between the two countries. He stressed that his contacts with Syrian officials continue on the fringes of all Arab meetings.

The foreign minister stated that the State of Bahrain has officially appointed Muhammad Khayr Musallam as its ambassador in Amman. Al-Kabariti pointed out that he continues contacts with his Kuwait counterpart to arrange a meeting between them, probably on the fringes of the forthcoming Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo, or anywhere else.

Israel's Beilin Meets al-Kabariti, Khalaf

JN0109192295 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Planning Minister Yosi Beilin today had talks in Amman with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti. The talks of the Israeli minister, who arrived in Amman today, focused on the Amman economic summit and Jordanian-Israeli relations. The two ministers spoke to our correspondent Ruba 'Assaf:

[Begin recording, in progress] [al-Kabariti] ... was good and lively. We discussed economic cooperation and peace issues. We exchanged views on these two points. We are also seriously considering an idea to hold three-way talks among Palestinian, Jordanian, and Israeli parties. I believe he [the Israeli minister] has discussed this subject with Planning Minister Dr. Rima Khalaf. We also discussed the progress of talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and I believe that these talks are making steady steps toward concluding an agreement, which the Israeli and Palestinian parties may reach soon.

['Assaf] We are approaching the Amman economic summit. Have you discussed the final arrangements for this summit?

[Al-Kabariti] Yes, we discussed the economic summit which will be held in Amman. Israel is expected to make an active and effective contribution to this conference. I believe there is a definite desire for Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian coordination before going to the Amman conference.

[Beilin, in English] It [the Amman economic summit] is one of the most important developments in the future. It will prove to many people how important it was to make peace. It will prove it to Israelis, it will prove it to Jordanians, Palestinians, and the others. All of us would

like it to become a very big success story. And I believe it is going to be a success story.

[Assaf, in English] And the trilateral track you're going to follow — Jordanians, Israelis, and Palestinians — when will it enter the phase of implementation?

[Beilin, in English] I think that we are going in stages and it won't take long before we see things on the ground. The development is a very rapid one. We are just now concluding agreements with the Jordanians on transportation and other issues. Once it would be easy for people to move from one place to another, it will contribute to their ability to work together economically, too. [end recording]

Israeli Planning Minister Yosi Beilin held a round of talks at the Planning Ministry with Planning Minister Dr. Rima Khalaf. They discussed the prospects for economic cooperation between Jordan and Israel and the joint regional projects that will be presented to the Amman summit, scheduled to convene in October. The two ministers spoke to our correspondent Ruba Assaf:

[Begin recording] [Khalaf] In fact, we discussed several topics, including the arrangements for the economic summit and the regional projects which will be implemented in the future. We also discussed the institutional frameworks to finance these projects and other development projects in the Middle East.

The first principle we agreed upon was to hold trilateral meetings, to be attended by the Palestinians, so that the projects will include all parties and so that we can find the suitable finance for them. We also discussed some projects which can be implemented quickly, and which the region needs in the near future. The most important of these are the projects to build bridges between Jordan and Palestine and a project to build a bridge between Jordan and Israel, the Shaykh Husayn bridge. We also discussed other projects, but I believe these projects will take longer time, unlike the ones I have mentioned earlier and which must be implemented very soon.

[Beilin, in English] We do have our ideas about the Amman conference. We are talking together with the Jordanians, with the Palestinians, with others and we are trying to contribute whatever we can in order to suggest things which will be seen in the coming future that more and more people in the region will feel the fruits of peace. Of course, there was the discussion about the airport in the Arava. There is the question of the Jordan Rift Valley and some ideas there. The Red Sea-Dead Sea canal and the other ideas. What is very important is that we will be able — Jordanians, Palestinians, and Israelis — to plan together for the future because we live here together. It would be a mistake to plan separately

and the future is a common future for all of us. [end recording]

[Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 1800 GMT reports that Israeli Planning Minister Yosi Beilin has returned to Israel following a visit that lasted several hours to Amman.]

Daily Welcomes International Stand on Bosnia

JN0209094195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Sep 95
pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The Late International Awakening in Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We welcome the late awakening of world conscience toward the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina which has passed the point of tolerance and caused total paralysis to international ethics. The world has now become aware of the ugliest forms of Serb crimes, including killing and displacing people, ethnic uprooting, and rape against the Muslims of Bosnia and against mankind — all mankind.

The awakening of world conscience is now represented by operations by NATO and international rapid deployment forces against strategic positions of Serb forces, who continue more barbaric acts against innocent Bosnians. This awakening comes at the right time and place to save international honor, which is rubbed in the mud of the Serb barbaric acts and arrogance, and to save Bosnia-Herzegovina's right to enjoy security, stability, and sovereignty over its territories just like the other parties in former Yugoslavia. This was noted by Abdal-Karim al-Kabariti, head of Jordanian diplomacy, in statements to reporters after his meeting with a number of ambassadors in Amman on 1 September.

NATO announced suspending its air sorties over the vicinity of Sarajevo and other Bosnian areas to pave the way for reaching a political solution to the crisis. This is conditioned on the Serb aggressors committing themselves to the cease-fire conditions. These conditions include the withdrawal of Serb forces from the vicinity of Sarajevo, allowing UN forces the freedom to move, halting Serb sniping operations, and opening Sarajevo Airport. We hope that the cease-fire will be honored so that international diplomacy can have chance to restore peace to that region, ahead of which is the peace of the Bosnian people who have suffered greatly from the dirty Serb war practices.

King, Queen Leave for United Kingdom

*JN0409143195 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Under God's care and protection, Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur have left the homeland for London on a private visit to the United Kingdom that will last several days.

Their majesties were seen off by His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty the king's personal representative; Her Highness Princess Taghrid; His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Her Highness Princess Tharwat; and their highnesses the princes and princesses; and members of the royal family.

Also at hand to see their majesties off were Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Hashemite Court

Chief Marwan al-Qasim, the House of Representatives speaker, the Senate president, his majesty's advisers, his highness the crown prince's special adviser, the ministers, the mayor of Amman, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the directors of general intelligence, public security, and civil defense, Amman governor, a number of senior state and military officials, senior employees at the Royal Hashemite Court, as well as the British ambassador accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath as regent during the king's absence from the homeland.

Their majesties were accompanied by a number of their highnesses the princes and princesses and the Jordanian ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Buwayz Holds Talks With PLO's Qaddumi*NC0509094995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 5 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese-Palestinian talks were held at the Bustrus Palace [Foreign Ministry building] at noon today. The Lebanese side to the talks comprised Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Foreign Ministry officials. The Palestinian side was made up of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Sulayman al-Najjab, a PLO Executive Committee member; Muhammad Jihad al-'Amuri, a PLO Central Committee member; and Shafiq al-Hut, PLO representative in Beirut.

Buwayz and Qaddumi held a 30-minute closed meeting before the talks.

Al-Hariri To Visit Syria, To Meet Khaddam*NC0409164595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri left for Damascus at noon today for talks with senior Syrian officials on new local and regional developments. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri will arrive in Damascus tomorrow morning, he said while leaving the government house at noon today. Al-Hariri said he will meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in the presence of Speaker Birri. He expressed his belief that differences will between the two do no good. He said that it is necessary to keep away from differences because they do not serve the country. He noted that all issues can be resolved through dialogue and discussion. He said: There is no reason to exaggerate things and we must place Lebanon's interests above any other consideration, because raising differences harms the country. He said that the reason for what is taking place and the opening of files is the nearing date of the presidential elections. He voiced his hope that these issues will be resolved during his visit to Damascus. [passage omitted]

Just in from the editor's desk: A meeting began at 1830 today between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. They will review the latest developments before al-Hariri's visit to Damascus tomorrow morning.

Hizballah Denies Alleged Planned Attacks in Cyprus*NC0209194695 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic
30 Aug 95 p 3*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah considers a statement by U.S. Charge d' Affairs in Beirut Ron Schlicher to be a green light to Israel to continue its acts of

aggression against the south. Hizballah denied planning attacks on foreign interests in Cyprus. A statement that Hizballah disseminated in Beirut yesterday said: The spreading of rumors and reports suggesting that Hizballah is planning to strike at Western and Arab targets and interests in Cyprus, although it did not reach the point of directly accusing Hizballah, is part of a plan to prepare world public opinion to accept any Zionist aggression against south Lebanon under the pretext of fighting what they call "terrorism." Apart from being fabricated and groundless, the report comes within a framework of instigation against Hizballah. Hizballah is committed to the option of resistance of the Zionist occupation. The Zionists usurp our land and tamper with our security. The hostile diplomatic and media circles have grown accustomed to raising this atmosphere when they have certain plans to implement.

This provocative atmosphere coincides with Ron Schlicher's statement. Schlicher sees the escalation of the Zionist aggression as normal and under control. Schlicher's statement gives the green light to the enemy to continue its terrorist actions, the latest of which were yesterday's aerial sorties over the south and the bombardment of a number of areas in the south. This situation prompts us to confirm that the Zionist enemy, in collaboration and coordination with the Americans, is pursuing a policy of heating up the situation for lowly political domestic purposes and to attack our kinsfolk.

We emphasize that Hizballah will spare no efforts to defend our brethren and land with all available means. Enemy threats will not affect us. The equation is clear and decisive. Every act of aggression will be met with an appropriate response and there will be a painful response to any attack on civilians.

Nasrallah Urges Government To Arm 'Resistance'*NC0309072695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hizballah secretary general, His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah, has said that the present ruling regime is one of the worst political regimes our country has ever had. In his address on three-day ceremony since the martyrdom of struggler Bilal Ibrahim al-Darmuh in Tamnin al-Tahta, his eminence asked: Who will regain the land and repulse the daily Zionist attacks that destroy houses and burn crops? His eminence asked who will treat the wounds of the oppressed and persecuted.

In his address, his eminence said that the problem in Lebanon lies with those who appointed themselves in charge of these matters in this country. He pointed

out that the Syrian military presence is the one thing preventing the warlords from playing havoc in this country.

His eminence stressed that resistance will continue, noting that it was the resistance and not the politicians who forced the enemy to retreat from all the areas it occupied in 1982. His eminence had the following to say:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] The resistance represents the most powerful factor in Lebanon. You should give money to the resistance; give weapons to this resistance. True, the Islamic Resistance is in need of weapons and ammunition. The Lebanese state must choose between the resistance and the Americans, who come every day to ask the state to disarm the resistance. We tell the state that the resistance needs weapons. The state must support this resistance with weapons. Why do you leave the sons of your Lebanese people to fight in western al-Biqā' and the south without cover? Nobody is defending the resistance.

I would like to recall the repeated calls by Imam al-Sadr in which he urged the Lebanese state to transfer its army to the south to defend the people of the south and the western al-Biqā' and to recover the occupied land. If the Lebanese state is incapable of this or does not want to do so, it must arm the people of the south and the western al-Biqā' to defend themselves. [end recording]

The Hizballah secretary general said: We are not afraid of elections. We have not been able to help our people financially, for well known reasons. But he who sacrifices his own blood and that of his men for the sake of this people's dignity and freedom will not hesitate to offer more if circumstances permit. His eminence asked whether the rulers of Lebanon care for their people and feel their pain and sufferings or are they only concerned about their personal interests?

The Hizballah secretary general said although the resistance is not an army that has heavy weapons, it nevertheless is fighting without cover. He said that the secret of its strength does not rest in its rockets but on the courage and will power with which it rockets the settlements in the north of occupied Palestine.

Al-Ummah Party Claims Shaykh's Assassination

NC0409094895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The al-Ummah Party [hizb al-ummah], an organization that has revealed itself

for the first time, has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Shaykh Nizar al-Halabi, head of the Islamic Charity Projects Society.

A caller who claimed to be the spokesman for the al-Ummah party telephoned AFP this morning to announce the party's responsibility for the execution of Nizar al-Halabi, head of the Islamic Projects Society, which is of Jewish origin. The caller added: We warn the society's new head, and we urge the Syrian forces to be cautious in their dealings with this suspect society.

The caller, who spoke in a Lebanese dialect, warned the society's guide Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Harari not to return to Lebanon.

It should be recalled that an unknown organization called Usamah al-Qassas had previously claimed responsibility for the assassination of al-Halabi.

Radio Updates Security Situation in South

NC0209060995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents in al-Nabatiyah, Tyre, western al-Biqā', and Hasbayya, guarded calm reigns along the front lines between the liberated and occupied areas this morning after intermittent Israeli attacks on these lines throughout the night. The enemy forces bombarded the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah, Kafr Tibnit, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Habbush, and al-Wadi al-Akhdar.

Elsewhere, the areas of Iqlim al-Tuffah, specifically Mlikh, al-Luwayzah, Sujud, Muruj al-Rayhan, and Jarju' were subjected to Israeli shell fire yesterday.

Reports from the occupied border strip said that the Israeli forces and their agent militia have tightened the noose around the township of Hula. Units of the agent Lahd militia stormed houses and kidnapped a number of citizens, including women and children.

In retaliation for the Israeli attacks, resistance forces attacked the enemy positions in Tuhrah, al-Dabshah, 'Ali al-Tahir, Kafr Tibnit, and al-Burj. The Amal Movement claimed responsibility for these attacks, noting that the enemy suffered several casualties.

Sources Cited on al-Asad's Cairo Trip

JN0409170495 *Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic*
1200 GMT 4 Sep 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political and diplomatic circles in the Syrian capital have drawn two main conclusions from the news conference Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak held in Cairo following their summit yesterday—a summit necessitated by regional circumstances, as informed Syrian sources told our radio.

First, that the peace process is actually dormant as a result of the intransigent Israeli stand. President al-Asad again refused to upgrade the level of negotiations to foreign ministers as this might have a negative rather than positive impact on the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Second, Syria does not attach any importance to the escape of Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi president's son-in-law, to Jordan with regard to any change in the situation in Iraq. When President Hafiz al-Asad was asked what he had to say regarding recent developments in Iraq, he said: What developments?

Informed sources denied that the summit had anything to do with the report leaked by THE WASHINGTON POST that the U.S. Administration sent a letter to Syria voicing its displeasure at Hamas leveling accusations against U.S. interests in the region. The sources said that this topic was not discussed and that the media and Israel blew it out of proportion.

Press Highlights Visit

JN0509070595 *Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic* 0445 GMT 5 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the importance of the Cairo meeting on Arab and international levels. It says: President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Cairo has come at a time when the Arab nation is passing through unusual circumstances under which attempts are being made to further strain the Arab situation, and consequently, to put the Arabs in a difficult position.

AL-BA'TH adds: Leader al-Asad's Cairo visit and his meeting with his brother President Mubarak have gained extraordinary attention due to the importance of the meeting during the nation's current circumstances. The various news media said that the Damascus-Cairo meeting means a great deal to the Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH points out that the talks between the two presidents focused on the general Arab situation, developments in the region, and the stalled peace process which leader al-Asad described as dormant due to Israel's rejection of any dealing with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the conditions of a just and comprehensive peace. The objectives of the visit are also to discuss the situation in the region from all its aspects, to bolster the current Arab situation, and to enable the nation to arrive at a position through which it can face challenges.

AL-BA'TH notes: It has become clear that Israel does not want to deal with the resolutions of international legitimacy, and that it is determined to make its own peace which achieves its aggressive and expansionist objectives.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria has worked and is still working with full seriousness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region—peace which achieves security, stability, and peace for all sides.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: We, in Syria, have been and are still advocates of a true peace. We support every effort to advance the peace process and reject any incomplete peace which does not achieve the interests of our people and nation.

In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the peace process in the region and the obstacles placed by Israel to prevent it from achieving its aspired objective — namely, a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper says: President Hafiz al-Asad said that he is not optimistic about the future of the peace process. He said this at a joint news conference held with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo two days ago. This lack of optimism is really justified.

TISHRIN reviews the Israeli stands toward the peace process since the Madrid conference four years ago. It says: Israel has never stopped placing obstacles and planting mines on the road of negotiations. Neither Yitzhaq Shamir's government nor Yitzhaq Rabin's government spared any means to sabotage and to destroy the Madrid formula. Following these strenuous negotiations, the region did not move from a state of confrontation to that of peace. Neither hazards and the causes of tension and confrontation have diminished due to the Israeli behavior which exploited the peace process to beef up Israel's military arsenal and consequently, to deprive Arabs of the possibility of obtaining a means to defend themselves and their rights.

TISHRIN says: Israel did not show a desire for peace similar to the Arabs' desire. In fact, it confronted the

Arab hand which is extended to peace with a hand full of arms, aggression, and arrogance.

TISHRIN says that the Rabin government's behavior has aborted world faith in the peace process, reduced chances for a just and comprehensive peace, and dissipated optimism over the possibility of extinguishing a serious hotbed of tension which has threatened world security several times.

TISHRIN says: Israel's attempts to conceal these facts and to hold Syria responsible for the dormancy from which the peace process is suffering will be to no avail.

TISHRIN places the international community before its responsibility, saying: If it [the international community] really cares for guaranteeing security and stability in this region, it should curb Israeli aggressiveness, pressure Israel, and force it to submit to the world's will, to implement the relevant UN resolutions, and to secure the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace which eliminates tension, injustice, and aggression.

Commentary on Cairo Trip

JN0409162995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Mubarak captured the attention of Arab and international circles. This is especially true since the visit tackled hot issues in the region, primarily the peace process, which is deadlocked on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The stalemate in the peace process is the result of Israel's intransigence and insistence on keeping its occupation of part of the Golan under flimsy security pretexts.

President Hafiz al-Asad was emphatic, as usual, when he told reporters that the peace process is dormant and that its future does not call for optimism, in view of the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of concrete progress and because Israel raises issues which have nothing to do with international resolutions. Syria, on the other hand, adheres to these resolutions as a basis of just and comprehensive peace in the region.

We note here that President Mubarak said only a few days ago that peace depends on Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and that Israel must stop its attempts at blackmail and pressure, because Syria will never yield to pressure and because its demands are fair.

Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak discussed many issues, including the peace process, the Arab situation, and ways to end the current deteriorating situation, which

reflects negatively on all Arab issues. In the news conference, President al-Asad said: We look forward to the future with optimism that relies on assiduous work and resolve to close ranks and overcome the current deteriorating situation.

It is common knowledge that the fragmentation of the Arab situation has encouraged Israel to go further in obstructing peace efforts and derailing the peace process toward separate deals and partial solutions that have nothing to do with peace. These deals and solutions prejudice Arab rights, especially the rights of the Palestinian people, and ultimately bolster Israel's occupation of Arab territory, complicate the situation, and increase tension.

Hence, Syria's persistent efforts to find formulas that would unite the Arabs and revive pan-Arab security. This is also why Syria has denounced any departure from pan-Arab objectives and the principles of the peace process.

No doubt, the talks held between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak tackled ways to unite the nation, in view of the qualitative weight of Syria and Egypt in the region and their great, historic role in the Arab arena.

Syria shall always remain the pivot of any serious pan-Arab action and the watchful eye that guards the rights of the Arabs. It shall never bargain over these rights, nor relinquish a grain of soil. In Syria's book, a just peace is that which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions never condone Israel's continued practices, including occupation, settlement activity, and Judaization of Arab land.

Vice President, Foreign Minister Leave for Tehran

JN0209110495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Damascus for Tehran this morning. They are carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani within the framework of ongoing consultations between the two countries on developments in the region.

Envoys Return With Message

JN0309054495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, accompanied by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Damascus last night following a visit to Tehran. During the visit, the two

officials conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani within the framework of bilateral consultations on regional issues.

Foreign Minister Meets With PLO's Qaddumi

JN0209182095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, this evening. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister; and Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Department, and it was attended on the Palestinian side by Sulayman al-Najjab and Muhammad Jihad.

Talks during the meeting focused on the situation in the region and developments in the peace process.

Tunisia's Yahia Arrives With Message for al-Asad

JN0409055895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia arrived in Damascus last night on a visit to Syria. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, Tunisian Ambassador Salaheddine (Jamal), and the embassy staff.

Ben Yahia made a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB MEWS AGENCY, SANA, correspondent in which he said he is pleased to be in Damascus. He said that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali assigned him as a special envoy to carry a message of amity and appreciation to President Hafiz al-Asad and the brotherly Syrian people. He added that his visit to Damascus falls within the framework of consultations and coordination between Tunisia and Syria, the exchange of views on regional situation, and the exertion of further efforts to set the Arab home in order.

Ben Yahia indicated that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is eager to listen to President Hafiz al-Asad's views on a number of issues of common interest and to strengthen ties and intensify contacts between officials in the two fraternal countries.

Paper: Peace Agreement With Israel Not 'Ready'

JN0309061395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH responds to the anti-Syria disinformation campaign aimed to blemish its constant stands on the peace process and the efforts being exerted to salvage it. The paper says that for Syria, a just, comprehensive peace was and still is a strategic option. Syria's stands have not been motivated by weakness nor have they been built on retreats or concessions.

AL-BA'TH says that Syria is working for a just peace that is based on the U.S. peace initiative, international legitimacy, and the UN resolutions. This peace must restore rights to their owners and must be based on equitable, balanced, and parallel bases that ensure security and stability for the most dangerous hotbed of tension in the world.

AL-BA'TH stresses that those who deviated from the course of the peace of the brave, for which leader al-Asad has called, have offered and continue to offer a series of concessions. Thus, they lost their case to the party occupying their territory and usurping their rights, helping it to emerge stronger.

AL-BA'TH indicates only Syria and Lebanon have remained in the political battle, which is harder than wars, constituting a front confronting all attempts to come out with incomplete peace.

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH responds to those who claimed and continue to claim that an agreement between Syria and Israel is ready. It says: Such allegations are part of a disinformation campaign that will not affect the firmness of the inseparable Syrian-Lebanese stand insisting on the restoration of all rights. All that is said about incomplete peace is nonsense.

Paper on Israeli Offer for Direct Negotiations

JN0309064595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN comments on the Israeli delaying tactics and constant obstacles to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. It says: When it demands direct negotiations with Syria, Israel wants to evade its international commitments, impose its terms and dictates, and obstruct the U.S. sponsor's role, responsibilities, and efforts to establish a just, comprehensive peace. However, such

practices do not make peace nor they provide guarantees for implementing the requirements of peace.

TISHRIN explains that in addition to its maneuvers, obstacles, and tricks, Israel wants a fragile and incomplete settlement much less than what has been agreed upon through the U.S. peace efforts and defined by the Madrid conference. Israel wants to maintain the occupied territories, something which is diametrically opposed to the resolutions of international legitimacy, the land-for-

peace principle, and the demand for full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

TISHRIN holds Israel responsible for the stalled Washington talks and the deadlocked Syrian track because of its refusal to be committed to the requirements and bases of a just, comprehensive peace that restores to Syria its rights and territory in full.

Afghanistan**Government Forces Involved in 'Heavy Fighting'****Dostam Positions in Samangan Said Seized**

LD0209172795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic army forces have captured 20 villages around the Qal'eh-ye Sarkari market in Samangan Province. An Armed Forces source reported to BAKHTAR that during a mopping-up operation this morning the Islamic army forces and the mojahedin cleared the Dostam militia from Dehpanji, (?Niman), Moghak, Gerdak, and Sorkhgardan areas. As many as 20 other villages around the Qal'eh-ye Sarkari market were also captured by the Islamic army forces. The demoralized militia has suffered heavy loss of life, and a quantity of their light and heavy weapons were seized. The source also reports that heavy fighting in the Qal'eh-ye Sarkari market continued during the course of the day.

300 Dostam Militiamen Surrender

LD0309193595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Army forces have captured Qal'eh-ye Sarkari district in Samangan Province and 300 of the Dostam militiamen have surrendered. Quoting Islamic Army sources, BAKHTAR has reported that this afternoon the Islamic Army and the mojahedin cleared up Qal'eh-ye Sarkari market. Over the previous two days, dozens of villages had been cleared of the militia in the district. During the operation Ahangaran, Bayanat, Band-e Tal, Deh-e Mati, Kondal-e Sorkhabi, Dasht-e Sefid Kotal, and [name indistinct] were captured. During the operation one [words indistinct], four mortars, one artillery piece, five ZK-1 machine guns, two DSK machine guns, a quantity of small arms, five ammunition depots, and three motor vehicles were seized. In the course of this successful operation a militia helicopter was shot down and five of their tanks were set ablaze.

After the fall of Qal'eh-ye Sarkari, 300 militiamen armed with light and heavy weapons surrendered to the mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces. Qal'eh-ye Sarkari fell after an operation which the Islamic Army began three days ago.

According to another report General Taher, commander of Dostam's 52d Battalion, joined the Islamic Army forces in Andarab. The defectors were armed with two rocket launchers, two PKs, 25 Kalashnikovs, two radio communication sets, and a quantity of ammunition.

Dostam Mounts Attacks in Several Districts

LD0409175495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Dostam militia mounted two unsuccessful attacks on the Islamic army forces in Sendara and Farakh-dara, Andarab district, this morning. As a result of the Islamic army forces' resistance the attacks failed. During the clashes five of the enemy were killed and a number of others injured.

According to another report an attack by the Taleban from the direction of Maydanshar was pushed back. According to Islamic army sources, last night the Taleban launched an attack against the Islamic army forces positions which was repulsed as a result of the mojahedin and Islamic army bravery. The bodies of their fallen men are lying in the battlefield.

Taleban Captures Hill in Arghandeh

LD0409113095 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 4, IRNA — The forces of Afghan religious students have seized a strategic hill in Arghandeh, west of Kabul ruled by President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Taleban sources in Peshawar told IRNA that their forces had fierce clashes with government troops before they captured Arghundi lying between Paghmani and Wardak Province.

The Taleban are reported to be now advancing towards Paghman some 25 kilometers west of Afghan capital.

The Afghan student militia which shot into prominence last year when they swept western Afghanistan, were routed from the vicinity of Kabul by the government forces led by Rabbani's strongman Ahmad Shah Masud last March.

But Taleban again made spectacular gains during the last few days as they seized strategic Shindand Airbase from the forces of an ally of Rabbani in western Afghanistan.

Taleban flushed out forces of Commandor Ismail, governor of Herat from Shindand Sunday last [3 September].

An English daily 'THE NEWS' today reported that Kabul has airlifted fresh reinforcement to Herat to rescue Ismail from imminent fall.

According to the daily some 2500 battle-hardened soldiers of Masud had been flown to Herat to resist the Taleban offensive.

Government Prepares To Retake Air Base

LD0409121795 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1130 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The assistant to the Afghanistan Embassy in Tehran, Mr. Khorasani, says that Shindand air base located on the west has been controlled by the Taleban group.

In a telephone contact with our correspondent in the external service of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Khorasani stated that at present the forces loyal to the Afghan president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, are deployed around Shindand and are preparing to attack Shindand air base to retake the base from Taleban group.

Government Claims Success at Air Base

LD0409204395 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 1930 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghan government sources say the Taleban forces have been made to retreat to areas around the Shindand air base south of Herat Province [western Afghanistan].

Afghanistan's general consul in Mashhad [eastern Iran] has said: In recent days, the Taleban forces — by exploiting certain issues that had risen among the ranks of government forces — had advanced to a distance of only 60 km from the town of Adraskan which stands only 60 km away from Shindand.

He added: At present, government forces, in their bid to regain the airbase, are engaged in heavy fighting against the Taleban.

Taleban Offensive Said Repulsed

BK0409142695 *Hong Kong AFP in English* 1352 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul Aug 4 (AFP) — The government of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani said Monday [4 September] its troops had repulsed an offensive by Taleban Islamic students against frontline positions west of Kabul.

"The Taleban attacked our positions around midnight last night," but they were "pushed back" after two hours of fighting, a Defence Ministry official told AFP.

Government jets went into action overnight to fight off the offensive on positions at Arghandeh 35 kilometers (20 miles) west of the Afghan capital, the official said.

The Taleban militia launched their new attempt to reach Kabul after their strategic victory Sunday when they captured Shindand, a major airbase in western Afghanistan.

The official did not give details of fighting in Arghandeh which was the first threat to Kabul since Rabbani forces foiled an earlier Taleban attempt to take Kabul in March.

The Defence Ministry official denied a reported assault by the Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat faction and militia of the ex-communist Uzbek General Abdol Rashid Dostam, against presidential forces around the central city of Bamian.

"No serious attack has been launched. Nor there has been any intense fighting," the official said.

He said that the frontline was about 20 kilometers (12 miles) to the west of Bamian. The city was captured from Dostam-Wahdat forces by pro-Rabbani troops on July 20.

Its recapture would strengthen defense of Dostam-held areas in northern Afghanistan province and reopen his supply routes.

The Taleban were exerting pressure on western Herat province after taking Nimroz, Helmand and Farah provinces in recent attacks.

However, the Defence Ministry said the military situation in Herat was "unchanged" since the Taleban captured Shindand and pushed back Rabbani forces to Adraskan, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of the base, and 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Herat city.

Taleban Captures Herat: Government Forces Defect

BK0509070895 *Hong Kong AFP in English* 0634 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN Sept 5 (AFP) — The Taleban Islamic militia in Afghanistan captured the northwestern provincial capital Herat overnight after pro-government forces defected, Afghan sources here said Tuesday [5 September].

The fall of Herat was confirmed by members of several international aid organisations based in the city.

"All the official buildings were occupied after very little fighting and the troops of provincial governor Israel Khan — an ally of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani — "defected to the Taleban fighters", the same sources said.

"Fierce fighting appears to have taken place outside the city," according to the sources who added that hundreds of officials and their relatives had arrived early Tuesday at Dogharun, on the Iran-Afghan border.

"For the moment there is no large scale movement of refugees on the Iranian border," said a member of a Tehran-based international organisation.

Afghan opposition sources said Ismail Khan, the governor of Herat had been spotted Tuesday morning at the Iranian border.

"The city appears to have fallen because of the defection of troops and men of the governor's tribe who went over to the Taleban," said a member in Tehran of the pro-Iranian Afghan movement Hezb-e-Wahdat — a coalition of Shiite groups opposed to the government in Kabul.

Fierce fighting has taken place in the past few days in Herat province between the Taleban and pro-government forces.

On Monday, the Taleban — literally students of theology — launched a major offensive near a military airfield about 10 kilometres (six miles) east of Herat.

Further on Taleban Takeover of Herat

LD0509094795 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0926 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sep. 5, IRNA — A spokesman of the Taleban group in Peshawar claimed here Tuesday [5 September] that the group captured Herat Province in west of Afghanistan.

Mulawi Gul Hashem said that the city of Herat and its airport had fallen to the Taleban forces at early Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of Afghan Government forces, Asrarollah, confirmed the reports on outbreak of clashes between Taleban and government troops. However, he said he was not informed of the fall of Herat.

An Islamic National Movement source led by General Dostam said in Peshawar that the capital city of Badghis Province in southwest of Afghanistan, Qal'eh-ye, was captured by the Islamic Movement's forces after a severe clash with forces of General Ismail Khan.

Informed sources believe that if the reports on the fall of Herat were true, Borhanoddin Rabbani's rule over the west of Afghanistan has virtually come to an end.

Following the intensification of the clashes between the Taleban forces and troops loyal to President Rabbani, it was said that several provinces including Helmand and Farah had come out of control of the government forces.

Bangladesh

Opposition, Police Reportedly Clash During Strike

Strike Passes 'Peacefully' First Day

BK0209161395 *Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network*
in Bengali 1500 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first day of the opposition-called 32-hour strike passed off peacefully today except for some stray incidents in some district towns. No vehicles plied Dhaka city, except for some rickshaws and [word indistinct]. Attendance in the Secretariat, other government and semigovernment offices, autonomous bodies and private firms was thin. Many people were seen going either by foot or by rickshaw to work. Production in industries at Adamjee, Fatulla and Demra was normal.

Railway sources said train services were disrupted in several places of the country due to a blockade. The Padma Express from Dhaka and several other trains could not leave for their destinations. All international flights operated as usual. However most of the internal flights were either rescheduled or suspended. The Inland Water Transport Agency said several launches left Dhaka today. No interdistrict buses or trucks departed from or for Dhaka. Police said 130 people, including 123 urchins, who were picketing have been arrested from various places in the city. The sounds of crackers and hand grenades were heard in some places of the capital.

Radio, AFP Incident Reports Contradict

BK0309154795 *Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network*
in Bengali 1500 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] All traffic, except some rickshas, remained off the road in Dhaka until 1400 today. Private business establishments and shops also remained closed on the second day of the opposition-called 32-hour strike; however, the vegetable market was open. Work in government offices was normal, although attendance was thin. Railway sources said that train services at various places throughout the country remained disrupted. Some ferries departed Dhaka Sadarghat to their destinations. Police sources said that no untoward incident was reported from any area of the capital during the strike.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1344 GMT on 3 Sep in a Dhaka datelined item reports the following: "Three opposition supporters were killed during a rally here Sunday, after a general strike when there were widespread

clashes, according to Bangladesh main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

She added that scores of Awami League supporters were also injured in clashes with government supporters.

'Three of our supporters were killed in Mirpur when armed ruling party supporters attacked a pro-strike march at the closing hours of the 32-hour nationwide general strike,' she told supporters.

She added, 18 were injured, some of them seriously, in the suburban district while scores of others were injured in clashes with rivals in several other Bangladeshi districts.

Police in Mirpur confirmed the incident, but refused to comment on details. The United News of Bangladesh news agency reported one person was killed and dozens injured.

One youth leader of Wajed's opposition Awami League was killed last week in clashes with police and ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party supporters.

The opposition, including the League, the Jatiya Party of deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, called the 32-hour strike which ended at 02:00 p.m. (0800 GMT).

They are campaigning to force Prime Minister Khaleda Zia' ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party Government to resign and hold elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Wajed also announced fresh anti-government action plans, including a day-long general strike in Dhaka on Wednesday, when a session of parliament meets, to protest the killings and convening of what she called 'illegal parliament.'

AFP: 'At Least Fifty' Hurt in Clashes

BK0209162395 Hong Kong AFP in English
1451 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Sept 2 (AFP) — Bangladesh was paralysed Saturday [2 September] as some 50 people were injured after police clashed with militant opposition activists enforcing a nationwide 32-hour general strike, witnesses said.

Police used batons and tear gas to disperse activists from the opposition Jatiya Party (JP), who set off homemade bombs and torched a bus and a taxi.

Student activists from the main opposition Awami League fired gunshots after police arrested three of their comrades at the Dhaka University campus.

These and other sporadic incidents left at least 50 people injured, several of them with splinter wounds, witnesses said.

Train and ferry services were seriously disrupted, while inter-district buses did not operate, transport officials said.

Southeastern Chittagong and southern Mongla ports were shut and some 40 ships stranded, official sources said.

Home-made bombs were exploded as the strike aimed at forcing Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government to resign got under way.

Thousands of police and security personnel were deployed in major cities, where for the first time in the 17-month-old opposition campaign senior opposition leaders joined picketers.

Activists armed with wooden clubs paraded through the streets chanting slogans like "Zia, the time for you to go has come."

Except for pedicabs, all other vehicles were off the streets, and large numbers of commuters, defying the stoppage, had to make their way to work on foot.

Private offices, businesses and schools were closed and the government secretariat complex was virtually empty despite a government order for state employees to report for duty.

Sources said many government employees had stayed overnight in their offices.

Saturday and Sunday are normal working days in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh.

The strike is the latest step in the opposition's 17-month campaign to force Zia to resign and hold elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The opposition, including Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, the JP of deposed Bangladeshi president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, had given Zia a Thursday deadline to meet their demands.

She refused saying the demands were "unconstitutional and undemocratic." Zia repeated her call for talks between the opposition and her ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party government.

She promised to hold elections on schedule in 1996.

Tension gripped eastern Narsinghdi town after unidentified people hurled bombs at a mosque during a march by the opposition Awami League as the strike was enforced, the official BSS news agency reported.

It quoted local officials as saying doors and windows of the mosque were damaged in the attack.

League officials were not immediately available for comment.

India

Hostage Abductors Contact Kashmir Authorities

BK0209160995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir Valley, the state government authorities are in contact with the abductors of the four foreign tourists and trying to persuade them to release the innocent tourists without any further delay. An official spokesman said in Srinagar this afternoon that the abductors contacted the authorities today also.

Government Repeats Call for Release

BK0309103495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has again appealed to the abductors of the four foreign tourists to release them forthwith. The government hoped that the abductors would take into consideration the appeals from all over the world and do not harm the hostages. An official spokesman said in Jammu that the state government is in contact with the abductors and persuading them to see reason, agony of the relatives and friends of the hostages, and set them free without further delay.

Officials Try To Resume Radio Contact

BK0409082895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0817 GMT 4 Sep 95

[Report by Izhar Wani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 4 (AFP) — Indian authorities were desperately trying Monday [4 September] to resume radio contact with Muslim separatists holding four Western tourists hostage in Kashmir, officials said.

The Kashmir administration was attempting to resume radio links with the Al-Faran group, which were cut on Sunday after the militants insisted on an early release of 15 jailed colleagues, the officials said.

"The last contact with the captors was made on Sunday noon," an official told AFP in this summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. "After that, Al-Faran switched off its radio sets.

"Our negotiators tried hard until Sunday evening to match their radio frequency but failed," the official said.

Al-Faran, which seized two Britons, an American and a German tourist two months ago, warned before cutting off the radio link on Sunday: "This is our last message to you."

Kashmir officials tried to persuade them to keep talking, but the guerrillas refused to listen.

Al-Faran, known to be made up mainly of Afghan mercenaries, seized Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, German Dirk Hasert and American Donald Hutchings from Kashmir's mountainous area of Pahalgam between July 4 and 8.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was killed in the first week of August.

Officials said Al-Faran had since Friday been pressing the authorities to "give a categorical yes or no to its demand" to release 15 of its colleagues in Indian prisons.

Police sources said heavily armed militants are guarding the hostages, and reportedly moving them from one hideout to another in the remote hills in order to prevent a possible rescue operation by Indian troops.

Indian officials are also concerned about the health of the Westerners because of fresh snow in the Himalayan mountains where they were believed to be held. Srinagar is also in the grip of a sudden cold wave.

Meanwhile, two influential Kashmiri Muslim leaders on Monday said they were also trying to establish contact with Al-Faran.

Shabir Shah and Yasin Malik, who arrived in the southern Kashmiri town of Anantnag on Sunday to attempt to end fratricidal clashes between Muslim separatist groups, said they wanted the Western hostages released unharmed.

"We are trying our best also to contact Al-Faran," Shah told AFP by telephone. "We also appeal to (Kashmiri) militants to rescue the four hostages if they trace their location."

More than 12,000 people have been killed since 1989 in a bloody Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the guerrillas. Islamabad denies the charge, but openly gives diplomatic support to the unrest, calling it a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Bomb Explodes in Kashmir Capital, Kills 10

BK0409092895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 4 (AFP) — A powerful car bomb killed seven Indian army

soldiers and three civilians near a state-run bank in Srinagar, summer capital of Kashmir, witnesses said.

Seven soldiers guarding the State Bank of India and three passers-by were killed instantly in the blast at 1:40 pm (0810 GMT), witnesses said. Fourteen other people were injured.

Further Details on Bomb

BK0409101595 Hong Kong AFP in English
0948 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 4 (AFP) — A powerful car-bomb killed at least 12 people Monday [4 September] near a state-run bank in the summer capital of India's troubled Kashmir state, police said.

Nine Indian soldiers were among the confirmed dead. Nearly 25 other people were injured, many critically, in the deafening blast at 1:40 pm (0810 GMT).

The car bomb was preceded by a grenade attack by Muslim militants fighting to end Indian rule over Kashmir. It was also followed by a minor explosion, but police said it did not cause any casualty.

The explosion on a busy Srinagar street seriously damaged the state-owned State Bank of India (SBI), Jammu and Kashmir Bank, a police station, a hotel where several foreign journalists are staying, and other buildings.

Police said the car rigged with bombs was parked near SBI, where soldiers come every day to withdraw cash.

Guerrillas first hurled a grenade at the heavily-protected bank, apparently to scare away civilians, and then set off the car bomb, police said.

"There was total panic when the bomb went off," a trader said. "People ran screaming in fear. There was total confusion."

The entire area was littered with glass, twisted vehicles and bloodied clothes.

Hundreds of Indian troops and paramilitary forces cordoned off the district in a bid to apprehend the bombers. A police officer said highly-lethal RDX explosives may have been used.

No one claimed responsibility for the car bomb.

Moslem militants are waging a bloody campaign to secede Kashmir. More than 12,000 people have been killed in the drive since 1989. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the guerrillas. Islamabad denies the charge.

Delhi Confirms, Condemns Blast

BK0409130195 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Srinagar, five persons were killed and 15 injured in bomb blasts in two cars parked near the State Bank of India on Residency Road. The killed include two women. The injured have been admitted to different hospitals in the city. The condition of some of them is reported to be serious. Further details are awaited.

The Congress-I has condemned the act of Kashmiri militants who caused the bomb blast in Srinagar. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said such acts will not deter us from the determination to fight terrorism and revive the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Gadgil described the blast as symbolic of the militants' frustration after the people responded well to the meetings organized by the PCC-I [Pradesh — State — Congress Committee-I] in the state.

Rebel Group Claims Responsibility

BK0409134395 Hong Kong AFP in English
1330 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 4 (AFP) — A Muslim rebel outfit claimed responsibility for a powerful car bomb blast which killed at least 12 people in the Kashmir summer capital on Monday.

A caller identifying himself as a member of Hizbul Mujahadeen, a pro-Pakistan group, told several news agencies the outfit staged the bomb attack in Srinagar's Residency Road area.

A Hizbul press statement in Urdu released to a newspaper said a "special squad had fixed a landmine to security vehicle."

"Because of the presence of a large number of people in the area, the Hizbul militants lobbed grenades to scare the people away," it said. "After that, the landmine was detonated by a remote controlled device."

The note alleged that Indian security troops helped the rebels plant the mine, which Kashmir watchers said was highly unlikely. It said "at least 15 army soldiers, paramilitary troops and border guards" had died.

Hizbul Mujahadeen is the most powerful rebel group favouring a merger with Pakistan. Other outfits want independence from Indian rule.

Police said bomb experts were scouring the area around the blast, inspecting six severely damaged vehicles

and motorbikes. Police said they believed the RDX explosive was used.

Hospital sources said 20 people had been admitted with injuries, of whom four were in critical condition. The confirmed dead were nine Indian soldiers and three civilians.

The blast near the State Bank of India was believed to have been targetted at army soldiers who come to the bank every day to withdraw cash.

More than 12,000 people have died since 1989 in a Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Kashmir has sparked two of the three wars between India and Pakistan which administer the disputed Himalayan province.

Spokesman Confirms 6 Dead, 16 Hurt

*BK0509033395 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 5 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has clarified that only six persons had died and 16 injured in yesterday's bomb blast at Residency Road in Srinagar. An official spokesman denied the report of higher casualties reported by newspapers and news agencies. The injured have been admitted to the Bone and Joint Hospital, and the Army Hospital in Srinagar.

Meanwhile, a militant outfit, Hizbul Mujahideen, has claimed responsibility for the blast. Leaders of different political parties, including the Congress-I, National Conference, Janata Dal, and the Communist Party of India have condemned the bomb blast. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has described the bomb blast as a dastardly act by the militants. He said the militants will not gain anything by shedding the blood of innocent people.

Commentary on Pakistan's Involvement

*BK0509044095 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 5 Sep 95*

[Commentary by Samuel Ved]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pro-Pakistan terrorists exploded a powerful bomb in a busy shopping area of Srinagar yesterday killing at least six persons, including two women, and injuring many others. Reports say that Hizbul Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for this dastardly act. This group is considered Pakistan's most trusted terrorist organization in Kashmir. This incident strengthens doubts that Pakistan and its agents are pre-

pared to go to any length to prevent return of normalcy in the state through elections.

The kidnapping of five foreign tourists and the brutal murder of one of them by another pro-Pakistan terrorist group, Al-Faran, are part of this strategy. It is no secret that peace or normalcy in Kashmir will upset Pakistani leaders both political and military apple-cart. They have staked their (oath) on no peace situation in Kashmir. Sindhi leader, (M.A. Halepota), said in Geneva in a chat with this writer that the creation of Pakistan has generated and multiplied hatred, and the Pakistani Army has created the Kashmir problem for its own sustenance. It goes without saying, therefore, that for the leadership, which has thrived in an atmosphere of hatred, peace is poison.

However, all reports from Jammu and Kashmir indicate clearly that the common Kashmiri is now bold to publicly express his yearning for peace and normalcy through elections. He has also seen through the Pakistani plan of destroying the symbols of Kashmiri identity, specially after the destroyer of the shrine of Charar-i-Sharif received a hero's welcome in Pakistan. The common Kashmiri is also aware that the Kashmiri language and culture are under threat in occupied Kashmir. All these are evidently causing much frustration to Pakistan and its agents on whom Islamabad and its friends have spent tons of money.

Pakistan had hoped to attract world's attention to Kashmir by the kidnapping of five Western tourists, but when this incident boomeranged and the world became convinced of Pakistan's involvement it disowned Al-Faran although the chairman of its parliament foreign committee, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, admitted a number of times that he was in touch with Al-Faran boys. He had also said that some of them could be former members of Harkatul Ansar, another pro-Pakistan terrorist group. Yesterday's bomb blast may well be the result of Islamabad's accumulated frustration. One has to wait and see what Pakistan now has to say about Hizbul Mujahideen and the bomb blast it carried out.

Seven 'Militants' Killed in Jammu, Kashmir

*BK0309161395 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, seven militants were killed in two separate incidents during the last 24 hours. The security forces also arrested five militants and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Five of the militants, including an Afghan mercenary, were killed in an encounter at village Galia in Bhadarwah tehsil [revenue district] of Doda District. The security forces also foiled a bid

by militants to kidnap a boatman at Ranibagh Ghat in Srinagar yesterday evening. Family members of the boatmen raised a hue and cry when militants abducted the boatman. This attracted the attention of the security force personnel who not only rescued the abducted person but also captured one of the militants. Another militant, who tried to escape by jumping to the river, drowned.

Meanwhile, the state government is continuing its efforts to persuade the abductors of the four foreign tourists to release them on humanitarian grounds. An official spokesman said in Srinagar this evening that contact with the abductors is still on through some intermediaries.

Police Chief: 'Human Bomb' Killed Beant Singh

*BK0409163695 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The acting chief minister of Punjab, Mr. H.S. Brar, called on the prime minister today and is understood to have discussed the situation in the state. Mr. Brar also had a meeting with the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan.

The Punjab police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, has said it was a human bomb which killed the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, and 15 others on Thursday. Addressing a news conference in Chandigarh this evening, he said the joint investigation being carried out by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation], the Punjab police, and Chandigarh police has revealed that the conspirators used the car purchased from Delhi and later repainted it in Chandigarh. About the identity of the human bomb, Mr. Gill said the DNA test will reveal this in a couple of days. About the nature of the explosive, the police chief stated that from the test carried out so far, it appears to be gelatine mixed with aluminium and not RDX. Denying reports of the recovery of a remote control device, Mr. Gill said the possibility is that the explosive was triggered by the human bomb himself.

Meanwhile, the CBI and the Punjab police are continuing the manhunt for the killers. CBI sources in New Delhi said several raids have been carried out in various places in Punjab. In Delhi, the police have stepped up surveillance of certain localities, especially West Delhi.

Iran

Syria's Khaddam Arrives With al-Asad Message

*LD0209135795 Tehran IRNA in English
1300 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep. 2, IRNA — 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice-president, arrived

here today and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart, Dr. Hasan Habibi.

The Syrian vice-president told reporters that he was carrying a message from Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad, for his Iranian counterpart, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message deals with the current regional developments, said the Syrian vice-president.

On the developments in Iraq, Khaddam said Syria was beside the Iraqi nation and supported its territorial integrity. "The foreign powers should stop meddling in Iraq's internal affairs and let the Iraqi nation decide its own future," Khaddam added.

Khaddam, replying to another question on the Syria-Israel peace talks, said, "any negotiations on peace will be doomed unless Israel retreats to pre-July [as received] 4, 1967 borders."

Also addressing reporters, Habibi said that given the regional developments, exchange of views between the two countries officials is necessary. "Mr. Khaddam's trip to Iran is in line with this policy," he noted. In the negotiations, Habibi said, bilateral relations between the two countries will also be discussed.

Khaddam is to leave Tehran later today. This is his second trip to Iran during the current Iranian year.

Khaddam Meets With Counterpart

*LD0209172095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi discussed important regional issues and bilateral relations in Tehran today. The following were among the topics of these discussions: emphasis on the need for maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity, preventing any harm to the Iraqi nation and its national interests, and the peaceful resolution of the crisis in the region.

At the meeting, the expansion of U.S. military presence in the region was assessed as being a factor leading to tension and instability and it was condemned.

Khaddam and Habibi also condemned the conspiracies of the Zionist regime and Washington to inflict blows on the Muslim nations of the region. The declaration of renewed support by the two countries for the legitimate struggle of the Muslim people of Lebanon and Palestine against the Zionist occupiers was among the other points included in this evening's discussion.

Let me inform you that the Syrian vice president, who arrived in Tehran this afternoon, left Tehran for Syria about an hour ago. During his short visit, Khaddam also

met the president but we have not received any news so far about this meeting.

Khaddam, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Review Ties

*LD0209205895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1930 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday 2 September and submitted a message from the Syrian President to al-Asad.

Stressing the closeness of views between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran about the existing strategic principles between the two countries, he said: We believe that Iran is the best and most trustworthy friend in the region to associate with and for exchanging views. Khaddam described the aims and long term conspiracies of the United States, the Zionists, and their allies and affiliates to expand their hegemony over the Middle East and said: Syria is worried about the developments occurring in the region and their negative consequences, such as the violation of Iraq's territorial integrity and direct interference by the Zionist regime, and it considers the extensive presence of U.S. military forces in the region as the real cause of the disruption of peace and stability and a real threat to Iraq's territorial integrity.

He stressed the need for more discussions between the region's progressive countries, including Iran, towards the adoption of a unified policy for confronting developments and the evil conspiracies of foreigners and added: The region's public opinion must be better informed about the developments and events in the region.

According to the Central News Unit, Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his part, expressed gratitude for the efforts made by the Syrian leadership with regards to regional issues and the continuous exchange of views between the two countries. Conveying his anxiety about the United States dispatching forces to the region, which is aimed at increasing the influence of the Zionist regime and control over the riches and interests of the countries of the area, he noted that the resolve and solidarity of Muslim, progressive, and freedom-loving countries and nations in confronting the conspiracies of the U.S. and Zionist regime conspiracies are strong and indestructible. He added: The rightful struggle of the Muslim people of Lebanon in the south of that country which has led to the defeat of the Zionist regime and its mercenaries proves this fact clearly.

The president also stressed Iran's renewed support for Syria's steadfastness in confronting all the Zionist

regime's different ploys and underlined the need for continuing the discussions and talks between the leaders of Iran and Syria in order to keep themselves informed about the different dimensions and aspects of the developments in the region.

Khaddam: Syria Strong on Golan Issue

*LD0309051895 Tehran IRNA in English
0433 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep. 3, IRNA — Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam here Saturday declared that Damascus would not bow before the Zionist regime on the Golan Heights issue.

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, Khaddam said that Israeli stance on the Golan Heights "is vague and Syria won't accept any pre-condition for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from its territory."

Khaddam added, "Syria wants Israel to withdraw its forces from the Golan Heights on the basis of 1967 borders."

Israel occupied the Golan Heights in 1967 war and has held on to it since. Now, Israel proposes a time frame for the withdrawal and says it wants to set up early warning posts on the Heights, wrote the paper.

It quoted Khaddam as saying "we will never accept the Israeli terms and conditions."

Commenting on northern Iraq, Khaddam told IRAN NEWS, "we are with the Iraqi nation and believe that Iraq's territorial integrity must be protected."

The Syrian official added "we, in Syria, believe that the fate of Iraq should be determined by the Iraqi nation only and no outsiders should meddle in the internal affairs of that country."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives al-Asad Message

*LD0309091595 Tehran IRNA in English
0549 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 3, IRNA — Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam handed over a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his Iranian counterpart President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a meeting before leaving here Saturday [2 September].

Referring to Tehran-Damascus joint stands, Khaddam termed Iran Syria's best and most reliable friend in the region to be consulted with.

The Syrian official outlined the long-term conspiracies of the U.S., the Zionist regime and their allies to dominate over the Middle East region and said Syria was concerned with the negative impacts of the regional

developments which would violate territorial integrity of Iraq and entail direct interference of the Zionist regime.

Damascus believes that expanded U.S. military presence in the region will indeed disturb regional peace and stability and is a serious threat to territorial integrity of Iraq, Khaddam stated.

Underlining the need for further exchange of views among progressive regional states, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian official said that people in the region should become further informed of the ongoing regional developments.

Lauding his Syrian counterpart for paying attention to regional affairs, President Rafsanjani in return expressed concern over the U.S. military expedition to the region with an objective to pave the way for the Zionist dominance over the region.

The president underscored firm determination of Muslim states and nations to fight conspiracies of the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

President Rafsanjani also reiterated Iran's support for Syria's resistance against Zionist plots.

Daily Comments on Visit

LD0309052595 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0425 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 3, IRNA — An English-language daily here Sunday [3 September] editorialized on the visit to Iran of the Syrian Vice-President and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and quoted him as saying Damascus will not make peace with Tel Aviv unless Israel completely withdraws from territories it occupied in 1967.

"After the establishment of self-rule, the 'Arafat police have been arresting, imprisoning and torturing Palestinian Muslims - a task that the Israelis used to carry out for years - which may augur the beginning of a fratricidal war in Gaza-Jericho, similar to what is happening in Afghanistan," wrote TEHRAN TIMES.

"Let us see what Yasir 'Arafat has so far gained and lost since he signed the so-called peace agreement in September 1993: the biggest achievement of 'Arafat is that he has been given nominal authority over Gaza-Jericho. He has also set up a Palestinian police whose prime objective is to suppress anti-Israeli sentiment and activity in the area under self-rule," it added.

"'Arafat has been reduced to a tool of the Zionist regime. He has lost his image as a hero who used to represent Palestinians, and he has caused a serious rift between the ranks of Palestinian fighters," the paper commented.

TEHRAN TIMES concluded that "in order to save Palestine from fratricidal war and bloodshed, 'Arafat should allow the Palestinians to decide their own fate. If Israel is really interested in peace, it should allow all Palestinians to return to their motherland. They can then determine their future through a plebiscite, without shedding a single drop of blood, because they would have the majority population in occupied Palestine."

Commentary Examines Mideast Peace Developments

LD0309172495 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1130 GMT 3 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syrian president, Mr. Hafiz al-Asad, today travelled to Egypt for a several-hour visit. The main theme of the talks of the Syrian president with his Egyptian counterpart is the trend in the Arab-Israeli talks and the situation of the Arab world. It is clear that at present the Arab-Israeli talks are facing a full stalemate on their Syria-Israel axis after three years. Damascus officials say that impediments created by the Zionist regime in the efforts by it to gain concessions from Syria has caused a halt in the Damascus-Tel Aviv talks. In fact, at present, the Damascus evaluation of the process of apparent peace is that the trend has not given reality to the restoration of the denied rights of the Arabs. Rather, a deficient compromise such as Gaza-Ariha [Gaza-Jericho Accord] has been imposed on them as well.

Considering the important role of Egypt in mediation in the Arab-Zionist regime compromise, it seems that Damascus wants to exploit the Egyptian retrieving of the occupied Golan Heights in south Lebanon. However, irrespective of the questions relating to the Middle East talks, regional developments, Iraqi questions, and the presence of numerous American warships in the region are among the subjects discussed by the presidents of Egypt and Syria.

Analysts believe that the Syrian positions on these developments indicate that this time Damascus pursues a more cautious stand towards the developments in Iraq than in the oil war. Analysts believe that the developments created after the oil war have strengthened the belief among Syrian officials that the presence of the United States as indisputable claimant to power in the region cannot be evaluated in terms of the interests of the Arab world. The experience of the massive military presence of the United States in the region reveals the prospect of the re-polarization in the Arab world and an ever-wider rift among the regional countries at this

juncture and can be maintained as a factor, strengthening impediments created by the Tel Aviv regime in exerting pressure on Damascus.

In this [word indistinct] Syria rejects any intervention of foreign powers in regional developments. For this reason, officials of that country plan to create a kind of unity of view in the region, especially in the Arab world, by diplomatic moves. However, despite the cautious positions of the Egyptians and their being somewhat in harmony with Damascus regarding regional developments, Cairo's interest in having a pivotal role in the present regional developments cannot be overlooked; a role which is noticeable in the U.S. scenario and strengthens Egypt's claims to its significance in the Arab world more than ever before.

President, al-Qadhdhafi Discuss U.S. Presence

LD0209173295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation today with Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, the president conveyed his greetings on the occasion of the anniversary of the revolution in that country. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the achievements made as a result of the Libyan revolution toward the welfare and interests of the people of that country and expressed the hope that the two countries' ties would expand even further. The president said that the problems being encountered by Libya were a result of the policies of the world powers and he expressed the hope that these problems will be overcome as soon as possible. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also condemned the intervention of foreign forces in the region and stressed the need for expanding regional cooperation.

Al-Qadhdhafi, for his part, described Iran and Libya as two resistant and like-minded governments in the face of global arrogance's quest for hegemony. He expressed anxiety about the illegitimate presence of U.S. forces in the region and said: By resorting to hollow excuses and with a permanent presence in the region, the United States intends to interfere — like a military terrorist — in the internal affairs of independent countries in order to achieve its hegemonistic aims. The Libyan leader called for coordinated action, via the United Nations, toward the departure of foreign forces from the region and he added: The countries of the region must solve their problems themselves.

President on World Issues, U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD0109134795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 1 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] In the second sermon, I will talk about a number of domestic and foreign issues very briefly. [passage omitted]

Concerning foreign issues, unfortunately the situation of insecurity in our region, the Balkans and Palestine is continuing. One can say this situation has even deteriorated. We can see the situation around us, most areas are in a state of tension.

We regard the situation in Iraq following the recent events as even more stormy. We view the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, with a greater presence of the Americans, as more worrying. In Turkey, in southeastern Turkey, there are security difficulties.

You know about the situation to the north of our country, in Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia. And the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan is sorrowful. In Pakistan, too, the problems in Karachi have led to insecurity.

And worse of all, southern Iran. Despite the fact that the situation is calm, the area is, in reality, under the occupation of the Americans. With dozens of warships and advanced weapons they are — impudently and under various empty excuses — occupying this region to the extent that no one has security. They have not come to this place to seek the satisfaction of God or to render a service to the people of this region. Nothing except their evil interests has brought them here. We can likewise see the situation in Palestine and Lebanon.

The Balkans, which is a sensitive and dangerous place for the world, does not have a good outlook. Although NATO has put on a show of dealing blows to the aggressor Serbs, in response to their act of aggression against Sarajevo, we have so far not had a good experience of their reactions and good intentions. It is the final test. God willing, they will not come out of this final test disgraced as in the past, and take it seriously.

It is really a dangerous place there. A country which the United Nations has recognized and has a presence there to maintain security, as it were, they even take UN soldiers hostage and are not bothered in the slightest. It does not comply with the current global criteria. Those who sent such a large-scale military expedition to the

Middle East because of oil wells do not regard their responsibility there [in Bosnia] as serious. They just pretend. We are really worried about it.

Tension exists in other parts of the world too. When we see all the tension around us, on the one hand we appreciate the calm and tranquillity in our country, which allows us to start major projects right on our borders. We must always remain grateful to God for this blessing. On the other hand, we must use all our means to help other Muslims in their plight. May God grant them success and help them save their country.

The Islamic revolution has always given thought and considerations to others, even at times when it has had to tackle many problems of its own. Our attitude is very much the same today.

We hope that with the efforts that are under way by our Foreign Affairs Ministry and the plans that we have for reducing these tensions, we may be able to keep some of these dangers and threats away from our region. [passage omitted]

U.S. Objectives in Region Examined

LD0209211995 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1930 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on Friday September 1, in his speech at the Friday prayers reviewing the world and regional developments, criticized the illegitimate presence of America in the Persian Gulf. The President said: What has brought the United States into the region is nothing but its illegitimate interests. They have created insecurity in the region by dispatching tens of warships and sophisticated equipment on various excuses.

Informed politicals say Washington statesmen are pursuing some objectives with their military presence in the Persian Gulf. One of the objectives is to gain dominance over the oil resources of the region. Presently the U.S. administration, under the pretext of internal developments in Iraq, has expanded its presence so that an insecure atmosphere has been created in the region and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf will therefore be more encouraged to purchase arms. By doing this the U.S. factories manufacturing weapons are making a lot of profit. The dire consequences of this act, however, is that the region will be filled with unnecessary weapons and will be ready to explode. On the other hand, the Arab countries are facing economic hardships due to massive expenses which the U.S. military expedition is imposing on them.

In regards to the security of the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly emphasized that real security in the region is not impossible but needs the cooperation of the regional states. In this regard, Iran believes that expansion of regional cooperation is one way to achieve this goal. In fact, expansion of economic relations with Persian Gulf countries can be an effective factor to maintain the security of the region by the regional states.

The increasing presence of the U.S. military forces in the region is, however, an indication of the fact that the measure is taken not to preserve the security of the region but to respond to the profit-oriented policies of the U.S. officials.

Nateq-Nuri Speaks on U.S. Policy in Region

LD0309121195 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0930 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of an open session of the Majlis today, Majlis speaker Nateq-Nuri, honoring the government week and the memory of worthy martyrs, praised the president and the cabinet members for their great service and infrastructural measures which they have undertaken at national level. He considered their measures as a source of pride for the Iranian nation.

Recalling the highlights of the guidelines and remarks of the Exalted Leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i — which were addressed to the cabinet — Mr. Nateq-Nuri pointed out: The guidelines of the Exalted Leader are not addressed only to the cabinet but to the Majlis and nation as well.

He stressed the need for greater and more positive contact between the officials and the people and more attention to be paid to people's needs, and added: The accord between the people and the officials has been, and still is, one of the factors in the success of our divine system.

The head of the legislative power pointed out: The government and the Majlis have taken effective steps in the second development plan in alignment with the emphatic statements of the Exalted Leadership on the need for development of the country and growth of the community in order to realize social justice.

He considered the government's foreign policy to have brought about the defeat of conspiracies and hostile measures by the world arrogance — especially America — against Iran and to be a sign of the power and formidableness of Iran's system.

On the recent developments in Iraq and America's intervention in that country's affairs, he said: Experience has shown that America seeks to consolidate the foundations of its presence in the region before and more than anything else. Otherwise, America neither cares for the Iraqi people nor considers them as the involved party in this case. He stressed: We believe that a permanent political system — reliant on the people — should take form in Iraq. That is because only a popular government — and not American plans [as heard] — will be able to save the Iraqi people.

He reminded the Persian Gulf southern littoral states of the insecurity and tension created by the illegitimate American presence in the region and, addressing them, he said: We must secure the unity and security of the region side by side and through mutual cooperation and assistance. The presence of aliens is detrimental to us all.

The Majlis speaker, referring to the heightened atrocities of the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, considered the silence by international forums — especially the United Nations — to pave the ground for the continuation and expansion of the Serbs' atrocities. Describing the U.S. proposed plan for Bosnia as ineffective, he added: We believe that the Bosnian nation should be given their right of self-defense; the aggressor be punished; the people of that country return to their homes and the territorial integrity of Bosnia as an independent Muslim state be preserved.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri expressed the hope that the Islamic Conference meeting in Malaysia be able to take a serious stand on the Bosnian issue and in that regard eliminate any grounds for exploitation by America and its agents.

Hasan Habibi Says U.S. Sanctions 'Ineffective'

*LD0209130395 Tehran IRNA in English
1155 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamedan, Hamedan Prov., Sept. 2, IRNA — First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here on Saturday (2 September) said that implementation of the second five-year development plan (1995-1999) in various sectors is taking place at a desired pace and the U.S. efforts to impose economic sanctions against Iran have been ineffective.

Pointing to the successful accomplishment of the first five-year development plan (1989-1993), Habibi told reporters that success in implementing the second development plan requires its conformity with the approved annual budgets. The rates of growth in the agriculture, mining and steel sectors which exceeded the projected

ones, are the government's points of strength, Habibi commented.

The first vice-president also said that the average annual rate of economic growth during the first five-year plan was eight percent.

U.S. Sanctions Reportedly Not Hurting Oil Sales

*LD0309210095 Tehran IRNA in English
2007 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 3 (IRNA) — Markets for the sale of Iranian crude oil are expanding either in their scope or in their kind following Iran's finding new customers and increasing sales of oil to former customers.

Iran's oil ministry launched activities to replace American companies and was able to find some in a short span of time following U.S. President Bill Clinton's imposing economic sanctions against Iran in May.

Clinton's plan banned American companies to conclude any cooperation contract for purchasing oil from Iran. The companies had last year purchased over dlr. four billion worth of crude from Iran to offer it somewhere outside the United States.

There was a 700,000 barrels rise in the companies daily purchase of oil from Iran, until Clinton imposed sanctions against Iran.

The companies' average import of crude oil from Iran in the first half of 1994 topped over 400,000 barrels per day.

Diplomatic sources said in Dubai on Friday that India had agreed on import of three million tons of oil from Iran annually to meet ten percent of its annual oil shortage.

Meanwhile, a British weekly wrote in its recent issue that Iran's export of oil to Bulgaria had been increased.

A refinery in the Bulgarian port of Burgas at Black Sea coastal areas had in July and August imported 350,000 barrels of crude from Iran daily.

Meanwhile, the London-based weekly PETROLEUM ARGUS wrote in its recent issue that China's import of oil from Iran had reached 20,000 barrels per day from about 5,700 barrels per day in the winter season.

The weekly predicted that China's crude oil import from Iran would soon increase by threefold to reach 60,000 barrels per day.

Sources at Iran's oil ministry have launched wide-scale efforts since May to market Iranian crude oil to the effect that Iran's economy has hardly suffered

following American companies' removal from the list of oil importers.

About 95 percent of Iran's oil was sold in Iranian and foreign markets in August.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced last week that Iran had no problems with sale of its crude oil.

Iran's efforts in gaining access to African and South American markets by concluding a contract for storing its oil in one of South Africa's ports, bore a fruitful outcome and American officials failed to exert pressure on South Africa for canceling the contract.

Iran offers 300,000 barrels of crude oil to South Africa daily.

Clinton accused Iran of striving to gain access to mass destruction weapons and supporting international terrorism, however, the allegations have been rejected by Iranian official sources, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Russian Government, which is a party to a contract for completing Bushehr Atomic Power Plant.

Clinton had tried to convince participants in the summit meeting of seven industrial states, held in Halifax of Canada, to decrease their economic and commercial relations with Iran and to follow up his plan aimed at imposing commercial and investment sanctions against Iran.

However, he failed to do so and political and economic relations between Iran and Western Europe are at their normal level.

Participation in U.S. Sporting Event Criticized

NC3008143595 *Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*
in Persian 16 Aug 95 p 13

[Unattributed commentary: "What Honor?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy on sports is that sports themselves are not the objective. It is mandatory therefore, in adhering to this policy, that we should not consider victory or failure on the sports field as an honor or a defeat.

Those who think in terms of the aspirations of the Islamic revolution seek their laurels in loftier arenas. Though the revolutionary Muslim people of Iran consider sports as a way of deriving pleasure and good health, they are also aware that in the context of the values propounded by the Islamic Revolution, the accepted criteria for judging their benefits should not be linked to victory or failure on the field.

Those who opposed the trip by Iranian wrestlers to the United States did not have the outcome of the tournament in mind. They believed, and still believe, the presence of Iranian athletes in the United States—especially when the Washington elites have been baring their fangs and talons at us more than ever before—is in stark contrast to our anti-American struggle. This is a deep and completely logical perspective which is in no way connected to success or failure, and is not affected by the propagandist atmosphere that has been whipped up.

In view of this principled policy, sending Iranian wrestlers to Atlanta—regardless of outcome—can be construed as paving the way of compromise with the United States and is therefore to be condemned. Expressing joy at taking second place in world wrestling and shrieking over propaganda loudspeakers that the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran was hoisted in Atlanta, is nothing but an effort to disguise the bitter truth under all this deceptive fanfare—sports have become a means, in the hands of the United States, of inducing countries into political games. We cannot conceal this reality from our people.

The basic question is: Is it an honor for the Islamic Republic of Iran's national anthem to be played and the flags of Iran and the United States to be unfurled side by side. This should be viewed by our people—who consider the United States their number one enemy—who can then decide the vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

If we were to accept that the United States is the champion and we are the second best, is it supposed to be an honor? With this so-called honor, what problems have we resolved and what knot have we unraveled? What blow have we dealt the United States?

If these can be considered plaudits for a revolutionary Muslim nation, then the connotation of the term 'honor' has changed. All reasonable opponents of the visit by the Iranian athletes to the United States, as well as all those who are aware of the depth of our values, should ask our officials now: What honor are they talking about?

Significance of Diplomacy, U.S. 'Vendetta' Viewed

NC0109183795 *Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian*
28 Aug 95 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "Iran's Dynamic Diplomacy on the International Level"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The success of the Islamic Republic of Iran's international diplomacy is undoubtedly one of the most brilliant gains of the government in recent years. This political triumph is as commendable

and valuable as the Islamic Republic of Iran's achievements in completing economic reconstruction projects and infrastructural investment.

While preserving its unblemished principles and tenets regarding its Islamic ideology and the interests of Muslims, the Islamic Republic of Iran has—through its diplomatic efforts—broadened cordial and friendly relations with most countries, even Western ones.

Iran's international stances are part of its foreign policy principles and bases, which emphasize Islamic values, Iran's consistent and immutable political strategy, the negation of domination, national interests and security, Iran's role as the trench for the Islamic Revolution, and the defense of its distinctive beliefs.

In the past few years one point has been stressed in Islamic Iran's stances, something of which the Islamic Republic of Iran's echelons know, that the Islamic Revolution and the government of Islamic Iran have become an international model. The revolution in Iran has exceeded its boundaries and has assumed an independent identity.

It is on this basis that the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government has firmly and seriously stressed support for the rights of the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine against the aggressors who have violated their land, lives, and honor. Most of the economic and political problems inflicted on Islamic Iran by enemies stem from the humane ideological stances of our system.

Clinton's government, which initiated the embargo against Iran, marking a new phase in its campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran, has constantly stressed that the aim of such pressure is to change the attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran to international crises in general and the "Palestinian crisis" in particular.

The peaks and troughs of White House policy against Iran have always been linked directly with the Middle East peace process. Every time this trend slackens, due to the Islamic resistance of the Palestinian Muslim nation, or reaches an impasse, attacks and operational plots—the products of the collusion of the White House and Tel Aviv against Islamic Iran—intensify.

The Clinton administration has changed its approach repeatedly to plead with Iran to change its stances regarding the Middle East compromise, implying that if this is done most of the mutual problems would be automatically solved and most of the pressure on Iran would be eliminated. But each time Iran's response has been logical and principled, stemming from the Islamic bases of its foreign policy. These are the categorical

responses and unswerving stances that have motivated the Clinton administration to carry on a multifaceted vendetta against Iran.

Fortunately, all the U.S. messages to its alliances—Western and non-Western—to join in Clinton's plans have failed to elicit the desired response. This is because many of Iran's economic policies and dynamic international diplomatic moves have projected a realistic picture of conditions in Iran. This is why most countries consider broadening economic relations with our country to be in their national interest.

Despite the negative and spiteful propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran, our country has, in the past two years, been a reliable resource in solving regional crises. Iran's conciliatory and mediatory moves regarding the crisis and civil war in Tajikistan, moves that have fortunately made much headway, along with other diplomatic efforts by Iran, mediating crises that have plagued our neighboring countries, in particular the Afghan crisis and the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict, demonstrate the efforts of Iran's foreign policy apparatus.

The recent message by his eminence the great leader [Khamene'i], saying fratricide and war in Afghanistan are unlawful, has received extensive feedback. The leaders of most jihadi factions and officials in Afghanistan, including the president and the head of the government's military installations, have admitted that the message is positive.

The outlook Iranian leaders have delineated for the region and for the Asian continent also reveals something of Iran's foreign policy. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has frequently propounded the plan for reawakening Asia's national identity by fostering unity of action among Iran, the PRC, and India. This plan has been the subject of various studies and created new viewpoints among various international institutes for strategic studies.

U.S. Policy Seeks To 'Preserve Flash Points'

*NC0209193995 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
26 Aug 95 p 16*

[Commentary by Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh: "Pentagon's Forces at Loose Ends and the Fermenting of Artificial Crises"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Three U.S. ships carrying tanks, military equipment, and 16,500 troops entered the Persian Gulf yesterday. By reinforcing its forces in the region, the Pentagon wishes to preempt possible attacks by Iraq against its neighbors in the Persian Gulf! This while there is no evidence to indicate any insecurity in the Persian Gulf or the

possibility of Iraq attacking its neighbors! Nor has there been an any aggression or coup d'etat's and the situation does not seem likely to change in the near future.

The experience of the last two decades in the Persian Gulf affirms the fact that despite Saddam, the region has been calm and Saddam continues to be extremely weak. The power pyramid in Baghdad is losing its elite and the interval between coups against Saddam is at most two months. Insubordination, insurrections, and desertions are common in the Iraqi armed forces and the special UN investigators move around with relatively complete freedom in the military barracks in contrast with past practice. Therefore, the United Nations considers the possibility of Iraq attacking its neighbors a mere rumor and Rolf Ekeus, head of the special UN team for disarming Iraq has announced that this government can no longer be considered a threat to the region. So what is the reason for all this deployment?

Until the end of the Cold War, the communist doctrines ingrained in the former Soviet Union were crisis-spawning from the U.S. perspective. Therefore, the movement of troops and military and nuclear equipment were geared to combating this crisis (the barrier to infiltration).

However today, the main objective of Washington is to preserve flash points rather than to combat the crises, even though the Pentagon constantly claims the latter as its objective.

The armed forces that had been considered national heroes in the Cold War are now languishing in a state of idleness and ambivalence. Those who had been trained solely for military operations will cause problems in civilian life. The former adventurers and warmongers are the disgruntled stratum in U.S. society at present and will be so in the future as well. They will be the main targets of the internal deviant and terroristic groups.

The Oklahoma debacle, which is considered the largest explosion ever to take place in an American city, is the first outcome of the coalition of such disenchanting Americans who were the victims of U.S. foreign policy. [passage omitted]

In any case, as far as Washington is concerned, retaining Saddam in the Persian Gulf means maintaining the center of the crisis, until a substitute can be found who will preserve the current status quo for the protection of the White House's interests. Meanwhile, the critical flash point in the Persian Gulf has two constant and intrinsic factors which the United States needs to maintain, as they constitute two pillars of its theory [preceding word in English]:

1. The constant fear on the part of regional Arabs from Iraq or other neighbors.

2. To retain military forces and bases and to increase their presence if possible.

Commentary: Khamene'i's Address on U.S. 'Failures'

LD0109165595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hazrat Ayatollah Khamene'i, grand leader of the Islamic revolution, on 30 August received the president and cabinet ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the meeting, the Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to the recent defeats of the U.S. imperialism in confronting the Islamic revolution and said: The invincibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran is indebted to its popularity. The U.S. imperialist interest necessitates the United States to plunder and loot the national resources of the Persian Gulf region and other parts of the world. In contrast the main goal of the Islamic revolution is to end the alien domination and intervention in the region. As such, the Islamic revolution's challenge to the United States is not a passing confrontation.

Its recent efforts, the United States and the Zionist regime, in order to weaken the Islamic Republic of Iran and isolate it from international scene, are the continuation of their former efforts.

As pointed out in the speech of the Grand Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i, in the past few months the U.S. Government made great efforts to disrupt the relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with other countries of the world. But these efforts fail in light of the vigilance of the people and the government officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Signing of the cooperation contract between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia in commissioning the Bushehr power plant is one case which the U.S. Administration employed all its efforts to cancel it but achieved no success. After this defeat the U.S. officials, in consultations with the Zionists, brought up the plan of a trade embargo against Iran, which brought nothing but defeat to the United States because of the unwillingness of the European, industrialized, and other countries to join the sanctions.

The latest, but definitely not the last, hostile measure taken by the U.S. Government against Iran was to press the South African Government to cancel its oil contract with Iran. According to this contract Iran can

store 15 million barrels of its crude oil in the South African oil reservoir, thereby facilitating Iran's access to international oil markets. The visit to Pretoria by the U.S. energy secretary and talks with South African authorities to cancel the said contract were also failures.

Undoubtedly the popular backing given to the Islamic Republic of Iran provides the opportunity to resist the U.S. political, economic, and domineering pressures and efficiently defend the lofty goals of the Islamic revolution.

U.S. Reportedly Wants To Change Iraqi System

*LD0309104595 Tehran IRNA in English
1022 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA — Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri on Sunday [3 September] said that the United States while consolidating its foothold in the Persian Gulf, is moving step by step towards changing the political system of government in Iraq.

Speaking at the open session of the Majlis, Nateq-Nuri said, "today the territorial integrity of Iraq is at stake and a stable political system of government backed by the people should be formed in that country."

He said paying no attention to the fate of people in Iraq on the part of the United States indicates that Washington is afraid of the Iraqi people.

Turning to the defection to Jordan of Iraqi Industry Minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan on August 8, the Majlis speaker said that it is too soon to comment on the issue.

Addressing the Persian Gulf states, he said the United States enters the region under pretext of preserving security but it escalates tension and insecurity and plunders the national wealth of the region.

"Presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf is to the detriment of the regional countries," he said, adding that since Washington was seeking to dominate the region, regional countries should maintain Persian Gulf security through unity and cooperation.

Elsewhere in his speech, the Majlis speaker stressed, "today, the Islamic republic is powerful and Washington's anti-Iran plots are doomed to fail on international scenes."

Rejecting the U.S. peace plan on Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said the aggressor should be punished and the Serbs should not make any claims to the regions under their occupation.

Tehran, Damascus Efforts Against U.S., Israel Seen

*LD0309140095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1015 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political analysts believe that Washington, which has been taking advantage of any opportunity to pave the way for its intervention in the region, this time is trying to increase its military presence in the sensitive Persian Gulf region by resorting to groundless pretexts and by taking advantage of the internal conditions in Iraq.

Apparently some regional countries see this American measure as a step toward the protection of their security, but experience has shown that the American military presence — before being a security guarantee — is a factor that contributes toward the creation of tension and insecurity. All evidence suggests that Washington is trying to expand its military and political intervention in the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East and increase its control over the region's energy resources, which supply the world economy now and in the future.

The creation of discord among Islamic countries and the imposition of an unjust peace by legitimizing the existence of the Zionist regime has been on the agenda of Washington and Tel Aviv for a long time, and that is a big conspiracy that apparently some do not take seriously.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Syria, as two regional powers, have so far tried to accept their own responsibility toward regional developments, coordinate their resources, and point out the need for particular attention to be paid to the principle enemy of the region [America] and the aims of the global Zionism concerning regional domination. The emphasis laid by Tehran and Damascus on the need for respecting the right of the Iraqi people to decide their own fate and the need for preserving that country's territorial integrity is a result of not only the adoption of a principled stance but also the farsightedness concerning the conspiracies, which also bring the seriousness of such threats to the fore.

Radio Examines U.S. Bosnia Peace Plan

*LD0209221395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran in English 1930 GMT 2 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Central News Bureau from Sarajevo has reported that the Balkan peace talks will begin in Geneva next week. In this round of talks, to be attended by the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia, the U.S. Peace Plan will be under

discussion. Based on the plan, which the U.S. Under Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke partially disclosed on Friday night after meeting with the President of Serbia, Milosevic: Two independent governments in the name of the Bosnian Serbs and the Federation of Muslims and Croats will be established in Bosnia.

Although Holbrooke claims that the U.S. plan has been accepted by all the parties to the conflict in Bosnia it seems unlikely that the Bosnian Muslims will accept the plan because, by implementation of the peace plan, Bosnia will practically be divided. And this is a question to which the Bosnian Muslims have resisted during three years of war.

Analysts of the Balkan developments believe that even if the plan is imposed on Bosnian Muslims one still cannot be hopeful that a permanent peace will be established in this war-stricken land. If a peace plan is imposed by coercion, when new conditions are provided and Muslims can stabilize their situation they will set out to implement their long-cherished desire for peaceful coexistence alongside the Serbs and Croats within the framework of a united and integrated Bosnia; something which is comprehensible for all Bosnian Muslims and has been put into effort for long years. [sentence as heard] If it were not for the hawkish Serb leaders and for the expansionism of the extremist Serb nationalists, most certainly Bosnian Muslims could easily continue their existence beside the Serbs and Croats under a multinational democratic government in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Unfortunately, however, today the powerful countries are attempting to provide the ground for achieving the goals by dividing this country in line with their own long-term policies; a goal for which each of the instrumental powers have taken up their own positions. The Americans seek to exercise influence in the Balkans, Russia seeks to gain its security guarantees in the north of Europe by backing the Serbs, and the Germans pursue the line of maintaining their traditional relations with the Croats so as to have fresh presence in the north of Europe. France and Britain want to create a balance in the Balkans with their old allies in World War II, the Serbs, so that they can prevent a permanent U.S. presence in the Balkans besides controlling the Russian influence.

Ambassador Hopeful About Contact Group Meetings

LD0209193195 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1853 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 2 (IRNA) — Iranian permanent ambassador to the Geneva-based United Nations, Sirus Naseri said on Saturday [2 September] the meeting with the International Contact Group on

Bosnia and the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is in line with the efforts to resolve the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Speaking with IRNA, he said the OIC Contact Group had already called for a joint meeting between the two contact groups and a similar meeting was held in Geneva at ambassadorial level last year. Naseri said a meeting was also held on Thursday at the invitation of Germany and France.

He said in addition to the International Contact Group, Italy, Canada and Spain joined the meeting at ambassadorial level with all of the OIC Contact Group except for Saudi Arabia.

Naseri said the meetings are the beginning to a joint cooperation to put an end to the Bosnian crisis.

On the viewpoints of the International Contact Group in the meeting, Naseri said they believed the opportunities should be used immediately to bring about an optimum situation. According to them the peace talks should parallel with economic aid and the influence of Milosevic to convince Bosnian Serbs to sit at the negotiating table, he said.

On the views of the OIC Contact Group in the meeting, he said the OIC upheld the need for preserving territorial integrity of Bosnia as well as lifting arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims and said that no pressure should be exerted on Muslims to make them give concessions.

Asked whether the U.S. Peace Plan was put forward in the meeting, he said the U.S. plan is based on that of the International Contact Group and they did not propose a new one.

He said, "the issues of mutual recognition and easing Serbia's economic blockade are being followed in the peace talks, but, we expressed deep concern over opening of any negotiations on any peace plan accepted by the Muslims and that the aggressor Serbs should not be given any concession at all. No provocation is to be allowed to distort the plan to be accepted by the Muslims."

From our point of view the crisis in Bosnia is a matter of aggression and if the International Contact Group accepted the view, the Islamic states will not hesitate to cooperate with them. We believe expansion of cooperation between Bosnia and Croatia, putting pressure on Serbia to recognize Bosnia and the economic restructuring of Bosnia will help resolve the crisis. Bosnia's defensive capability should be strengthened to materialize the political settlement for the crisis and the arms embargo on Bosnia should be lifted.

On NATO plans to go ahead with air strikes on Serb positions, he said members of the International Contact Group on Bosnia said in the meeting that the air strikes will continue extensively. In other words, they accepted that NATO's former operations were a mere mockery. But the problem with the Serb operations is that air strikes have not a decisive role and ground operations are needed to deal with the Serbs.

Nepal

Police Detain 30 Tibetans After Protest

BK0109142395 Hong Kong AFP in English
1410 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Sept 1 (AFP) — Kathmandu police arrested about 30 Tibetans who went to the Chinese embassy in Lhasa Friday [1 September] with a letter protesting Beijing's 30-year occupation, a Tibetan source said.

The group, who called themselves the Tibet Voluntary Freedom Fighter Group (TVFFG) burned incense outside the embassy in memory of Tibetans killed by Chinese authorities, the source said.

After the ceremony, watched by about 100 riot police, the group left chanting anti-Chinese slogans — later they were all arrested.

Police said they were detained for five hours and later released.

A press statement by the group said "It is a cruel reminder of the ruthless Chinese aggression that resulted in the forceful and illegal occupation of Tibet by China."

"Since then, our freedom and independence have been totally denied and our fundamental human rights have been abused and violated by the Chinese authorities in Tibet."

"The communist regime in Tibet is an endless rule of torture, persecution, suffering and intimidation," it added.

China seized and annexed Tibet after an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, in 1959, renaming the area the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Pakistan

Spokesman Rejects Indian Allegations on Bombing

BK0409163895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has described as ridiculous, baseless, and extremely irresponsible the statement of Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan alleging Pakistan's involvement in the assassination of Indian

Punjab's Chief Minister Beant Singh. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the statement is an outrageous ploy to conceal serious lapses found in the Indian Punjab chief minister's security arrangements due to an ineffectual system and the collusion of inner circles. India's Internal Security Minister Rajesh Pilot and Home Ministry officials have already admitted the lapses in the chief minister's security arrangements.

The spokesman said Pakistan also strongly rejects the attempts made by Indian authorities to project a nexus between the separatist movement in the Indian Punjab and the freedom movement for the right of self-determination in the internationally recognized disputed territory of occupied Kashmir. The spokesman said the obvious aim of the Indian attempts, on the one hand, are to claim Indian sovereignty over the disputed territory and to exploit sensitivities about terrorism on the other hand. Pakistan has consistently maintained that it is not involved in India's internal affairs. Pakistan does not help any group in India that has separatist and secessionist claims. Kashmir, on the other hand, is not and has never been a part of India. It is a disputed territory, the status of which is to be determined through a UN-supervised plebiscite in accordance with UN resolutions, and both India and Pakistan are parties to this dispute. Pakistan extends moral, political, and diplomatic support in favor of the Kashmiri movement for the implementation of these UN resolutions.

Ali Denies Role in India's Punjab Affairs

BK0209153595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that Pakistan is capable of foiling unholy designs of its enemy. Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, he said India is stockpiling sophisticated weapons. He said the Pakistani nation is united on the question of its defense and that it is India's habit to blame Pakistan for all its problems. He categorically stated that Khalistan or eastern Punjab is India's internal problem and Pakistan does not believe in interfering in affairs of other countries.

India Said Ready To Attempt To Free Hostages

BK0309141495 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, mojahedin fired rockets on a military camp located at Town Hall in Badgam, killing and injuring a number of troops. A powerful bomb blasted a military picket near a hotel in Sopor. At least one soldier was reported killed. Three soldiers were killed and four injured in a clash with mojahedin. At (Chaudoda), one mojahed was martyred in

action. In Kupwara area, a military vehicle was blown up in a land mine explosion, killing one soldier and injuring three others. In downtown Srinagar, a number of troops were reported killed and injured in exchange of fire with mojahed. Meanwhile, troops continued their repressive operations in Srinagar and other towns. They shot dead a youth and injured another rowing in river Jhelum near Abeguzar. Earlier, Indian troops had subjected to severe physical torture shopkeepers, peddlers, and passersby in the area during a crackdown. Strike was observed in downtown Srinagar on the occasion of Qul [religious rites] ceremony of a martyred shopkeeper Bashir Ahmad. His father and grandfather had also been killed some time ago by Indian troops. A four-day-old child became the victim of indiscriminate firing by troops in Gandarbal. This enraged the people who took to the streets, denouncing the Indian savagery and raising slogans in favor of liberation.

On an average 15 innocent Kashmiri Muslims are being killed daily by Indian troops in their stepped-up atrocities against the people of the held valley. PTV representative Ghulam Nabi Khayal reports from Srinagar that a decision has been taken by the Indian administration to launch a military operation for the recovery of the foreign tourists kidnapped by the Al-Faran group with the help of foreign commandos.

[Begin Khayal recording] With the Indian forces intensifying their military operations in Kashmir Valley, the death toll on an average has once again risen to about 15 people a day. The killing of detained youths by soldiers also continues unabated. According to a human rights forum, more than 200 Kashmiri youths were done to death in custody after being subjected to physical torture this year. During the last 24 hours, one Latif Ahmad and two other young men were included among those 15 persons shot dead in parts of the valley. Father of four children, Latif was tortured to death after arrest in border town of Uri in west Kashmir yesterday. Two more detenus [detainees] were killed in Baramula in a similar way.

Southern town of Anantnag and adjoining areas were brought under a sudden curfew Saturday, forcing tens of thousands of people to remain indoors for the whole day. The highups in state administration have almost finalized plans for an operation with the help of foreign commandos to rescue four Western hostages held by one Al-Faran group for about two months now. [end recording]

Editorial Claims India Has Hydrogen Bomb

BK0409024895 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 3 Sep 95
p 10

[Editorial: "Preparation for Hydrogen Bomb"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Western intelligence reports have revealed that Indian scientists have handed over to the Indian Army the hydrogen bomb they have been building at the Bhabha Nuclear Research Institute near Bombay for the last five years. Besides providing further proof of India's traditional expansionist attitude and its craze for stockpiling deadly weapons, this disclosure is extremely perturbing in view of the current peace and security situation in South Asia. Pakistan should bring this to the attention of the United States and other major world powers which want to make South Asia a nuclear free zone. These powers have been putting pressure on Pakistan's nuclear program. Particularly, the U.S. attitude towards Pakistan is very unfair. Pakistan has been deprived of the military equipment and the F-16's despite having paid for it. The U.S. and Western powers should review their prejudice because this indirectly encourages India's craze for adventurism.

Opposition Calls Strike To Protest Arrest of Women

BK0309164895 Hong Kong AFP in English
1635 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Sept 3 (AFP) — The main opposition in this troubled Pakistani port city has called for a protest strike Monday to express anger against the alleged arrest and humiliation of women activists, party officials said.

Sunday's announcement came hours before the government and the ethnic based Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) were to resume their sixth round of talks to find a political solution to the city's crisis.

Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar, in a tough warning ahead of Monday's protest, said anyone carrying or using arms during the strike would be "shot at sight."

The MQM, in a statement, appealed to people to close all shops and business centres and halt transport to condemn "maltreatment, arrest and torture of the women" in Karachi.

The party asked the people in southern Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital, to observe the protest "peacefully."

At least 10 cars were torched here Sunday and officials said the attacks were aimed at intimidating people and forcing them to heed the strike call.

MQM officials said they would not boycott the talks scheduled to resume here late Sunday. The talks are aimed at ending the bloodshed in Karachi, where more than 1,300 people have been killed this year.

The government blames the MQM for much of the violence but the party denies this.

The MQM, which represents the Urdu speaking Muhajir settlers who migrated from India after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent, Friday gave a 48 hour ultimatum to the government for the release of women detained by police recently, including a local leader, Seema Zareen.

Zareen, who was detained on Thursday, has already been released.

Liaquat Hussain, a member of the MQM negotiating team, said police and paramilitary Rangers had continued raids and, despite protests, some 300 people had been arrested over the past two weeks.

Zuhair Akram, from the government's negotiating team, described the MQM call as "pressure tactics" and said the strike would dampen hopes for an early solution to the problem.

The call was given when "we were expecting some good results," he said, adding that the protest would complicate the situation after a congenial atmosphere was created at a previous round of talks earlier this week.

'Partial' Strike Observed; 2 Killed

*BK0409144395 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi today, partial strike was observed in response to the protest call given by the [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group. Our Karachi bureau says the life in several areas of the city was normal to a large extent. Shops, bazaars, and business centers were open. Attendance in government and semi-government offices was normal. In certain areas, however, people could not reach their offices because of nonavailability of transport. The vegetable market remained open and business continued as usual. In all the districts, except the Central District, government and private transport operated without interruption. However, in the Central District, business activities were closed and the transport remained off-road due to fear of terrorists belonging to the Altaf Group. Some private cars, however, continued to operate. According to a press release of the Karachi Transport Corporation, terrorists put two official buses on fire and injured two government servants.

Police sources have said as a result of terrorist activities by the Altaf Group, two persons, including a woman, were killed and another six were injured. The injured included a police sub-inspector and a constable.

The Sindh chief minister, Syed Abdullah Shah, who was accompanied by a number of federal and provincial ministers and advisers, visited various city areas in Karachi today. Addressing a large gathering of people at Qaidabad, where the strike called by the Altaf Group had no impact, the Sindh chief minister said that the people's confidence is being restored and the terrorists cannot deter the peace-loving people from their routine work. Syed Abdullah Shah said that miscreants have always resorted to non-democratic and anti-social activities on the special occasions when the nation is preparing to commemorate national days. [Law Minister] Mr. N.D. Khan also spoke on the occasion and said the people are now fed up with strikes which have disturbed their normal life in a big way. He said once peace is restored in the city, the government will be in a position to provide jobs to thousands of educated youths. The chief minister also visited the F.S. Market where shopkeepers had opened their shops and were busy in their daily business. While talking to the traders, the chief minister said that he was happy to see their normal business in the heart of the city.

Talks With Altaf Group Termed 'Positive'

*BK0309160695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between the government and the Altaf Group negotiating teams on the restoration of peace in Karachi continued at the Governor House in Karachi this afternoon. The government team was led by Federal Law Minister Professor N.D. Khan, while the Altaf Group team was headed by Ajmal Dehlvi. The two teams decided to hold the next round of talks in Karachi at 1000 on Thursday [7 September].

Talking to newsmen, Prof. N.D. Khan, the leader of the government negotiating team, described today's talks as positive and said that gradual progress was being made. He said that considering the outcome of our discussions in the previous rounds, we were expecting some breakthrough at today's talks, but the Altaf Group's call for a strike marred the prospects of any progress. The government's negotiating team took strong note of the appeal for a strike and described it as regrettable, he added.

Meanwhile, in Karachi, police have arrested 94 people involved in various crimes and recovered illegal arms, narcotics, and stolen property. According to police sources, the District Central police have also arrested

two alleged terrorists — Naim alias PP and Akhlaq Ahmad — near Gujarnala in the Nazimabad area, and seized one klashnikov and one 7-mm rifle along with ammunition from a stolen car in which they were traveling.

Minister Warns Against Carrying Weapons in Karachi

*BK0409050395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 0300 GMT 4 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar, has said the government will ensure protection of the life and property of all the people, including those of Karachi. Talking to newsmen in Karachi yesterday, he said law enforcing agencies are taking action against terrorists and not against any linguistic group. Those political parties with any role in Karachi in the past should come forward and cooperate with the government in restoring peace to the city. He warned that anyone carrying or using weapons to disrupt the normal life today will be shot at sight.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has appealed to the citizens, traders, and transporters to continue their business as usual as the government has taken all necessary measures to maintain law and order and safeguard the life and property of the people. Commenting to the strike called by the Altaf Group, the chief minister said in an interview in Karachi yesterday that the Altaf Group has always made it a point to disturb the law and order and normal life on occasions like the Independence Day and Defense Day. In this connection, he said this year on the 14th of August the Altaf Group created law and order situation when the people were actively celebrating the Independence Day. He appealed to the citizens that they should condemn such calls.

A member of the government negotiating team, Mr. Zuhair Akram Nadim, has termed the strike call given by the Altaf Group as pressure tactics. Talking to APP in Karachi yesterday, he said when talks were heading in a cordial manner, a sudden strike call was aimed at sabotaging them.

Meanwhile, the government has set up complaint centers at various places of Karachi where people can complain of any arson attempt or provide any related information so that untoward incidents could be checked and those harassing people could be brought to book. According to APP, five activists of the Altaf Group including two units in charge of the organization involved in the killing of 14 passengers of a coach were arrested. The accused have made confession of their involvement in over a dozen cases. Police also arrested two young boys

belonging to (Rehan-Kana) group of the Altaf Group and recovered arms and ammunition from them. They were involved in terrorist attacks, kidnapping, dacoities, and firing cases.

According to a press note issued in Karachi, five persons were killed and another injured in different incidents in Karachi last night. Three vehicles were also set on fire.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Reportedly To Release Ferry Hostages

Spokesman: Government Decision 'Soon'

*BK3108115195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting
Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 31 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military Spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said that the Navy and the Air Force are watching the government's charter ferry, the Iris Moana, which is still at sea off the coast of Mullaitivu. He said that they would make a decision regarding this ship soon. He said that the Iris Moana never carry troops. It is operated to provide relief to people of Jaffna by the commissioner general of essential services. He said that there was no communication from the ship.

The naval gunboats blasted by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had destroyed two large trawlers operated by the terrorists and between 20 to 30 of their cadres are reported to have been killed. The Iris Moana has been anchored at sea when the first gunboat followed it. It came under attack as it drew up to investigate the Iris Moana.

Hostages 'Taken Away'; Crew Detained

*BK0309115095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting
Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 3 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] says that all civilians on board the ship Iris Moana held by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] are to be freed today. A spokesman for the ICRC told SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that two teams of special representatives have been sent to Trincomalee and Mullaitivu to obtain the release of the civilians. According to the ICRC, all passengers on the ship have been taken away and they were under detention of the LTTE in Mullaitivu. Several rounds of discussions took place yesterday to free the passengers on board the ship. However, the eight-member crew of the ship is being detained on board.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1018 GMT on 3 Sep in a Colombo datelined item adds the following: "Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger carried out a deadly new attack on the army on Sunday but also demanded direct talks with the government over 144 people on hijacked ferry.

Separatist fighters ambushed an army patrol in the Sinhapura area of eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 18 soldiers and two civilians, the military said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters wounded at least five other soldiers in the raid on a routine patrol.

The LTTE kept the government-chartered Iris Moana, with its 136 passengers and eight crew, for the fifth day off the island's Mullaitivu coast.

The anti-LTTE Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), which administered the ferry service said they intercepted LTTE radio communications seeking direct talks with the government over the hostages.

'The LTTE claims to protect Tamils but they are now asking ransom for their freedom. This shows the true colours of the Tigers,' EPDP leader and MP Douglas Devananda said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) declined to discuss details but said the passengers were in good health.

'We are acting as an intermediary between the government and the LTTE and for that reason we cannot give details. But all we can say is that the passengers are in good health,' ICRC deputy head of delegation Paul Fruh said.

Devananda said the LTTE was forcing the civilians, who were travelling from the north-eastern port of Trincomalee to a government-held area in the LTTE-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula, to address public meetings.

'They want passengers to say that conditions in government-controlled areas are very bad. The passengers are being taken to address small meetings in LTTE-held areas,' Devananda said.

The LTTE which maintains a de facto separate state in the northern Jaffna peninsula is opposed to Tamil civilians living in areas under government control.

Devananda said he was petitioning foreign missions in Colombo saying the LTTE used unarmed civilians in the Iris Moana ferry as a human shield to attack and sink two navy gunboats on Tuesday.

Two Israeli-built Dvora navy gunboats which went to the rescue of the Iris Moana were destroyed by the LTTE.

Military sources speculated that the LTTE may be keeping the crew on the ferry which ran aground Wednesday but may have taken all the passengers ashore for interrogation.

Military officials said the LTTE had also captured at least two sailors from the two destroyed gunboats.

Security forces have ruled out any rescue mission because of the risk to lives, officials said. The LTTE pulled out of a three-month long truce on April 19 by sinking two navy ships anchored in Trincomalee.

The Tigers are fighting for independence for the two million Tamil minority concentrated in the north and east of the island. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict since 1972.]

LTTE Said To Take Hostages to Jaffna

BK0409122095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Colombo datelined AFP report says that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has demanded direct talks with the government to free the passengers and crew of the Irish Moana. The ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] has declined to discuss the details of the crisis, but says that all the passengers are in good health. AFP also reported that the LTTE wanted negotiations for the release of the hostages to be initiated by the government. The terrorists have been holding the 136 passengers and the eight-men crew of the government chartered ferry for almost a week.

When contacted by the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation], Commissioner General of Rehabilitation M. (Junaid) said that he had not received any official intimation from the ICRC on the LTTE's latest demands. Earlier reports reaching Colombo said that the hostages have been taken ashore and were being questioned by LTTE at Mullaitivu. Meanwhile, a spokesman of the EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] denied that their members were on board the ferry as claimed by the LTTE adding that the Tigers wanted to involve his party. He added that there was a possibility that the LTTE might use the hostages as human shields during confrontation with the security forces and put the blame on the government for any hostage casualty. The EPDP has appealed to the LTTE to release the hostages and crew unconditionally and swiftly.

And here is the most recent report. The LTTE has not yet released the passengers and crew of the Irish Moana. Latest reports reaching Colombo say that the LTTE is taking action to take these passengers to Jaffna. One

hundred and twenty-six of the passengers except the crew have so far been taken out of the ferry. They are not placed in charge of the LTTE in the Mullaitivu village. The ICRC is acting as an intermediary to release them. A spokesman of the ICRC office in Colombo when contacted by the SLBC this morning said that the LTTE will soon show the passengers to their representatives in Jaffna. He expressed the hope that they would soon be released. However, he further said that there is no information with regard to the action that has been taken on the crew. The LTTE has laid down certain conditions for their release. These are still not been disclosed. It is almost a week since the LTTE had hijacked Irish Moana. It was used by the commissioner general of essential services to transport civilians to the surrounding islands in Jaffna and specially transport them to the Trincomalee hospital for treatment.

Release Said To Occur at Point Pedro

BK0509083395 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0629 GMT 5 Sep 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 4 Sep: — The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has told the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] that all passengers except the EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] cadres from the hijacked ship, Irish Moana, would be released at Point Pedro, government and private sources said yesterday, states Monday's DAILY NEWS.

The sources said that the LTTE had insisted talking with the government about the release of the ship and its 8-member crew. "The passengers who include 63 men, 58 women, and 15 children are still in Mullaitivu and are being questioned about the Army and EPDP positions and activities", the sources said. The passengers are to be taken to Jaffna for propaganda purposes. They will be asked to tell the people of Jaffna that their position in the island is no better than the situation in LTTE-controlled areas, these sources said. "They want to make use of these unfortunate passengers to counter the government propaganda that the situation in the liberated areas is better than in uncleared areas", these sources said.

The Defense Ministry said negotiations between the ICRC and the LTTE were continuing and the information it had was what the ICRC had told them. The ICRC which is acting as an intermediary between the government and the LTTE on the freeing [of] hostages held at Mullaitivu declined to give details but said all the

passengers are in good health. "The ship is where the LTTE had left it. The crew is in LTTE custody and passengers except the EPDP cadres will be released", the operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry said.

EPDP leader, Douglas Devananda, meanwhile, in a statement yesterday said the passengers who were taken away from the ship on Tuesday [29 August] morning were made to wade through swamps and muddy waterways and made to suffer untold hardships. He charged that the LTTE was trying to divert international attention from the hijack of the civilian ship, by saying that EPDP cadres travelled in it. He said the LTTE was never concerned about the interests of the Tamil people. They are only concerned about themselves. "It is because of this unprincipled behavior of the LTTE that we and other political parties took a stand against the LTTE", Devananda said. He asked why the other Tamil political parties are remaining silent about the hijack. "Do they condone it?", he asked.

Train Escapes Bomb Attack in Colombo

BK0409153395 Hong Kong AFP in English
1525 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Sep 4 (AFP) — A powerful explosion ripped up a railway track in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo shortly after an office train passed by Monday [4 September], police said, adding that one bystander was injured.

The blast was near the Orugodawatte railway station and occurred shortly after a passenger train passed through the station, a police spokesman said, adding that the train may have been the target of the attack.

"It was a narrow escape for the train. The bomb went off as the train passed through and only one bystander was injured. There is a six-inch crater on the track," a police spokesman said.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack which came amid a tight security alert in the capital against possible bombing attempts by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

A suicide bomber believed to be a LTTE member blasted a government office here last month, killing at least 24 people.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign for an independent homeland for the island's two million Tamil minority concentrated in the northern and eastern regions of the island.

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